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THE TIMES

INTERNATIONAL EDITION

No 64.406

SATURDAY AUGUST 8 1992

50p

COME AWAY FOR THE WEEKEND WITH THE TIMES AND ENJOY A WHISTLESTOP TOUR OF EUROPE FROM YOUR ARMCHAIR



ITALIAN STYLE

Liz Smith finds appearances deceptive at Georgio Armani's estate near Milan

Saturday Review
Page 4



SCOTTISH FLING

Discover the esoteric pleasures awaiting the tweedy set heading north for the Scottish season

Weekend Times
Page 1



FRENCH TREAT

Passport to France offers the greenery of summertime Alps or the high life with our chateau tokens

Weekend Times
Page 8



SPANISH GOLD

Euphoric Catalans, Charles Bremner finds, are left with an Olympic hangover of bill-paying

Page 8

Hurd demands end to camp atrocities

Clamour grows for intervention

BY MICHAEL BINION, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR
AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

BRITAIN yesterday made an impassioned call for UN action to end the "intolerable abuses" of the camps in Bosnia-Herzegovina and demanded that those responsible be brought to book.

Douglas Hurd also called for an emergency session of the United Nations human rights commission to set up an urgent investigation and he urged all UN members to report any evidence on the ill-treatment of people detained in camps. The foreign secretary said that food and medicine must get through to the inmates of the camps and, if any centres were to remain, they should be placed under international supervision as soon as possible.

His statement was issued as world leaders, including the Pope and the Chief Rabbi in Britain, expressed outrage at

the pictures of torture and starvation in the Bosnian camps. The momentum for greatly increased Western intervention to ensure humanitarian aid appeared unstoppable.

Mr Hurd talked frequently yesterday with John Major about the issue of the camps and spent much of his day in a flurry of top-level consultations at the Foreign Office. "The abuses which have been brought to light are intolerable and must be stopped," he said. "It is essential that qualified and independent observers should have immediate and continuing access to all camps and detention centres."

The prime minister, speaking in Barcelona, said that it was clear that the abuses "have to be stopped and have to be stopped speedily. I believe the first thing that is necessary is to have independent observers in those camps, with full access without delay. The moment they are there we must make sure that those camps come under international and independent supervision," he said.

Mr Hurd noted that several organisations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross were already at work in the region. He said the UN investigation should appoint a special rapporteur.

"We invited the UN secretary-general to co-ordinate the information provided by these organisations."

Britain yesterday submitted a resolution to the UN Security Council authorising this action. It called on all member states to provide "authenticated" information on abuses so that those responsible can be brought to book."

The foreign secretary said that Britain was confident that it could reach an agreement with its friends in New York on the question of protecting the delivery of humanitarian supplies to Bosnia. He confirmed that Nato had begun contingency planning. A full council meeting is expected in Brussels next week, and Nato sources said yesterday that it could result

in a binding decision to commit Western troops to Bosnia. No force can be implemented, however, until a UN resolution has been passed.

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The UN wants the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe to delegate the peacekeeping effort to one of two "regional" military alliances - Nato or the Western European Union. France fa-

vours an increased UN role and America wants greater power for Nato. Diplomats said that Britain was leaning towards the French view, because it feels this would lead to a less aggressive approach. They said that overland aid convoys could simply be given a UN protection, such as heavier armour and mine-clearing equipment.

The language of the American proposal mirrors that of the UN resolution which authorised the Gulf war. The proposal would mean that the force would be composed of forces from individual Nato countries, working together

under the blanket authority of the UN.

Washington has always been sceptical about placing troops under UN command for all but purely peacekeeping missions. But France, which is not a member of Nato's military organisation, evidently does not want the alliance to be the prime mover in any military protection for aid convoys. One French minister said that the UN must pass a resolution to allow it to take on a more offensive role.

UN sources said the outcomes of the rival proposals would be "diametrically opposed". The French plan would lead to a strengthening of the UN force in Bosnia, while the American scheme would mean that UN peacekeepers would have to be evacuated from the region to

avoid reprisals from Serbs angered by military action.

Germany said yesterday that Serb forces in Bosnia's ethnic war could not be neutralised by air strikes alone and that they might retaliate by attacking UN personnel on the ground.

Volker Rühe, the defence minister, said: "We have the experience of Lebanon, even in the Gulf war, that you cannot master the situation from the air alone, and even less so in the Balkans," he said. "I believe the number of victims would increase very quickly," he said in an interview on German television.

He said Germany, because of Nazi aggression against Yugoslavia in the second world war, could not send troops to take part in the protection of aid convoys. He

UN had execution details for weeks

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations has had evidence for the past month that about 200 men, who were being held by Serbs in a stadium in the Bosnian town of Bosanski Novi, were taken out and shot early in May, according to an internal UN document obtained by *The Times*. The document, a letter dated July 8 to the UN peace-keeping office in Belgrade, fuels the controversy about the UN's failure to publicise evidence of human-rights violations.

The letter cites information from 18 Bosnian men who were interviewed when they arrived in Croatia. The refugees had all been held in the stadium for some days.

"They report that every day some 30 new detainees arrive in the stadium," the letter says. "When the stadium is full the guards take some of them away to unknown destinations. Some witnesses report that in the first 15 days of May some 200 persons taken out of the stadium were shot dead nearby."

The UN letter says there is no doubt that "in Bosanski Novi, the Muslim ethnic group [20 per cent] continues to suffer persecution, deportation and intimidation from Serbian armed groups. A calculated strategy to 'cleanse' the area of Muslims appears to have intensified beginning in May 1992."

The refugees said Serb political leaders knew about the atrocities and some said that Serb leaders had ordered a retaliatory policy of "one Serbian killed in the front line, one Muslim man will be killed".



Travelling in hope: a policeman at Varazdin, Croatia, carries a Bosnian baby to a train waiting to evacuate refugees to Germany

Red Cross finds overwhelming problems in Bosnia 9
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Chief Rabbi on the duty to intervene Letters, 11

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in a binding decision to commit Western troops to Bosnia. No force can be implemented, however



Towering achievement: the ten bells of the Great Tower at Magdalen College Oxford will ring out tomorrow to mark the 500th anniversary of the laying of its cornerstone. The tower, where the college choir sings each May, was described by Charles I as "the most absolute building in Oxford". It was built by William Reynolds in Cotswold stone from quarries at Headington and its first bells were installed in 1505. In the foreground in Chaplain's Quad is David Wynne's sculpture of Christ and Mary Magdalene

Trust hospital blocks patient queue-jumping by fundholding GPs

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

AN NHS trust hospital is to place patients referred by a GP fundholding practice on a specially created "slow track" so that they have to wait longer for treatment.

Colchester General Hospital is to introduce the scheme after a local fundholder, Dr Tony Snell, hired consultants from the hospital to see his patients privately, avoiding the long wait for an out-patient appointment and getting his patients on the hospital waiting list sooner.

His move provoked a dispute in which the hospital accused him of acting unfairly by opening up a "fast track", enabling his patients to jump the queue for treatment. After details of the dispute appeared in *The Times*, the two sides agreed to the "slow track" plan.

Under the new arrangement, any of the 9,000 patients from the practice run by Dr Snell and his two partners who are referred to the hospital after being seen pri-

vately by consultants will be made to wait for treatment as long as those referred by other GPs via the slower route of the out-patients department. The cost of the private consultations, which Dr Snell claims is no greater than is charged by the hospital for an out-patient appointment, is met by the practice from its budget.

The agreement has implications for other GP fundholders, many of whom have arranged similar private deals with local consultants to secure advantages for their patients.

Last year the health department issued guidelines to all trust hospitals instructing them that patients of GP fundholders should not be given priority over others.

But Dr Alan Davison, chief executive of the Essex Rivers Healthcare Trust, which incorporates Colchester General Hospital, said that the deal would be an administrative headache and would still not

eliminate queue jumping. Under the arrangement a patient from the practice who is seen by a consultant privately in two weeks compared with a normal wait for a routine out-patient appointment of two months, will have to wait six weeks — the difference between the two — before being placed on the patient waiting list.

However, Dr Davison said that when patients were judged to be in need of urgent treatment they would be admitted sooner.

The study, whose preliminary findings have been seen by *The Times*, asked more than 400 people about their fears of travel. Of the 96 replies so far examined, 40 said that they did not intend to travel through the tunnel, with nearly 38 per cent saying that their anxiety was so great that they would never consider it. Their concerns included terrorism, flooding, fire, being stuck in a broken-down train and anxiety that the roof might cave in.

The 59 per cent who said they would use the tunnel were not without fears. Only 19, or 34 per cent, said that they would travel without anxiety. About 4 per cent said they would travel but would be petrified. Almost 36 per cent would have some anxiety.

The survey has been carried out by the London College of Clinical Hypnosis, West London, on behalf of the Association of Clinical Hypnotherapists. Michael Joseph, director of studies at the college, said that a full analysis of the results would not be available until next week.

He said that the number of negative responses to the tunnel was horrifying. "We also looked at fear of flying, rail, bus, coach, car, the underground, aeroplanes and sea ferries. The sea ferries come over much better than the Channel tunnel."

He said it was possible that anxieties might meliorate once the Channel tunnel opened. He added that travel phobias could be treated, either through hypnosis or by techniques such as "thought-stopping exercises".

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Throughout the summer *The Times* will publish full lists of all classes of degree at universities and former polytechnics. Degree results from

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For details of results already published and how to obtain back copies call:

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Channel tunnel is top travel phobia

BY NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

THE Channel tunnel fills more people with dread than flying or sailing. More than 40 per cent of those questioned in a survey of travel phobias said that they would not use it.

The study, whose preliminary findings have been seen by *The Times*, asked more than 400 people about their fears of travel. Of the 96 replies so far examined, 40 said that they did not intend to travel through the tunnel, with nearly 38 per cent saying that their anxiety was so great that they would never consider it. Their concerns included terrorism, flooding, fire, being stuck in a broken-down train and anxiety that the roof might cave in.

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Police ready to halt hippie festival

HAMPSHIRE was in a state of alert yesterday as police launched a massive operation to ward off an invasion of New Age travellers believed to be heading for an illegal festival expected to rival those of Castle Morton and Newtonton earlier this year.

Police set up road blocks and closed off access routes to tracts of open land across the north of the county, but said they had turned back only about 100 travellers. The main impact was on cars heading for the south coast for the weekend rather than on straggling convoys of buses and vans searching for the Twyford Down festival.

Travellers were adamant yesterday that a festival would take place somewhere in the county this weekend, although none was sure of the venue. Finn, a bearded traveller who has camped in a small woodland clearing just south of Winchester for several months in protest at the Twyford Down project, said: "You can't stop the tribes."

New Age travellers are determined not to be stopped by trenches, barricades and police checkpoints, Louise Hidalgo writes

Hundreds of vehicles have been stashed away in the area over the last few weeks ready for the festival.

Police were cautious in claiming success in halting the festival. Supt John Wilson, Surrey police's ground commander for the operation, said: "They can still descend from out of the woodwork in their thousands."

The festival was to have been held at Bramshott Common near Liphook, a beauty spot owned by the defence ministry on the borders of Hampshire, Surrey and East Sussex, where more than 10,000 people descended for a festival last August. But the large police presence around the 500-acre tract of heathland seemed to have successfully deterred at least some travellers. About 50 ve-

Government defends its economic policy

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government last night issued a fierce defence of its economic policy, denouncing the "quick-fixers" who have been calling on it to devalue sterling.

A change of course through watering down or abandoning the commitment to low inflation would undermine the confidence that was the key to recovery, it said.

Stephen Dorrell, Treasury financial secretary, distinguished the devaluation "who hanker after a quick fix" from the supporters of sound money, who wanted long-term improvement. "There has never been a clearer choice between short-term relief and long-term benefit," he said.

If consumers and businessmen knew the government would not "debauch the currency in a mad dash for growth", they would begin to spend and invest again.

School protester alleges press smear

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE Asian community leader heading the campaign against alleged "institutional racism" at a Berkshire church school said yesterday that he was the victim of smear tactics, after local press reports claiming he had a violent criminal past.

Chaudry Ifakhar Ahmed, president of the Pakistan



Ahmed: allegations of violent criminal record

ADRIAN BROOKS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two questioned over girl found strangled

Two men were last night being questioned by Hampshire detectives investigating the murder of Helen Gorrie, the 15-year-old girl whose body was found dumped in woods close to a footpath at Horndean, near Portsmouth. The men, thought to be in their 20s, were taken to Havant police station.

Helen Gorrie was last seen alive by her brother just before midnight last Friday, before she went out. Her body was later found by guests at wedding in a nearby community hall. She had been strangled. For five days Hampshire police have carried out investigations in the area. Yesterday they said that two local men were being questioned by officers under the command of Det Supt Doug Quade. Police will have to decide today whether to release the men or to apply to a magistrate to continue holding them for further interviews.

Pilot survives crash

An RAF pilot escaped with just seconds to spare when his Harrier jump-jet crashed on take-off at RAF Wittering, near Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. Flight Lieutenant Chris Huckstepp ejected from the aircraft just before it hit the runway and burst into flames. He was able to walk away from the scene of the crash and was being kept at the base medical centre for observation. RAF investigators are attempting to discover the cause of the accident, the second of its kind at the base this year. A spokeswoman for the base said that the aircraft had just lifted off the runway, which runs close to the A1, when it fell back to the ground and caught fire within the confines of the base. In a similar crash in May a pilot also escaped with his life, suffering two broken legs.

Nurse found guilty

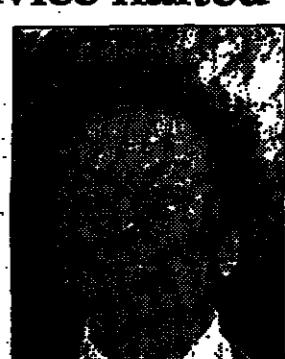
A female psychiatric nurse was found guilty of professional misconduct after a violent patient claimed they had a love affair. The nurse, Miriam Walker, 32, of Wellington, Northampton, avoided being struck off by a disciplinary committee of the UK Central Council for Nurses. Mrs Walker, the former deputy manager of Eastfield Rehabilitation Centre, Northampton, was also found guilty of threatening to send the patient, known only as Martin, to a psychiatric hospital if he revealed the alleged affair. But a charge of having a sexual relationship with the man was dropped because his evidence was unsupported.

Veteran leads in chess

After five of the 11 rounds of the British chess championship in Plymouth the lead is held by the veteran Cambridge grandmaster Jonathan Mestel. He defeated Michael Basman, an international master from Surrey, who chose an eccentric defence. Unperturbed, Mestel quickly won a pawn and in desperation Basman launched a wild sacrificial attack but ended several pieces in arrears and had to resign at the end of a furious time scramble. The fifth round was less fortunate for the reigning champion Julian Hodgson from London, who seems likely to lose to Grandmaster Mark Hebden from Leicester.

Abortion advice halted

Irish student leaders face prosecution after a High Court judge banned them from distributing abortion information. Mr Justice Frederick Morris granted a permanent injunction to the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, stopping 14 named student leaders from distributing information on abortion services in Britain. Dr Mary Lucey, right, the president of the society, said: "The law of Ireland has been upheld and the constitutional protection of unborn life has again been guaranteed." Dr Lucey said her organisation had not yet decided if it would take further court action against the students. The judge also referred the case to the Director of Public Prosecutions, who will decide if the students should be prosecuted for contempt of court by continuing to defy an injunction originally granted three years ago. After the ruling Maxine Brady, of the Union of Students in Ireland, said the students would continue to publish abortion information.



£2.5m drugs seized

Five men from the Balkans have been arrested in a customs raid on a St Albans hotel in which 23kg of heroin worth £2.5 million was seized, it was revealed yesterday. A Bosnian, three Croatians and a Turk were arrested in the operation, which came after several months of surveillance work. A Customs spokesman, Mike Thompson, said officers followed the suspects' minibus from Dover to the Lake Holidays hotel in St Albans and made the arrests there. Mr Thompson said the heroin came into Britain via the Balkan route and from the so-called golden crescent area — Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan.

Hunt for anorexic girl

Cheshire social services have alerted ports and airports in the United Kingdom, Ireland and the United States about a girl suffering from anorexia who disappeared with her family after refusing further medical treatment. Siobhan Conlan, 16, weighs less than four stone and has lost so much weight that she cannot walk. She is believed to have caught a ferry to Dublin with her mother Eileen, 41, and two sisters after leaving their home in Cheshire. Siobhan has been under hospital care for the past two years.

Victim wins £1.48m

A woman left severely brain-damaged after a road accident has been awarded £1.48 million, agreed High Court damages. Under a structured settlement, £800,000 of the award will be used to purchase an annuity to provide Anne Grainger, 35, with a guaranteed inflation-proof income for the rest of her life. Miss Grainger was unconscious for four months after she was knocked down by a van on a pedestrian crossing in Upper Richmond Road, Putney, southwest London, in January 1989. Once a sales officer with British Telecom, she is now totally dependent on her parents, Jean, 58, and Terry, 60, who care for her at home in Putney. Judgment was entered by consent against the van driver Robert Hogan, of Hayes, west London, who had admitted liability. The damages will be paid by his insurers.

Smithy fined for noise

Neighbours of a 150-year-old blacksmith's in Nunthorpe, Cleveland, claim that when Euan Watson, 28, is making and fitting horseshoes the noise and vibration are unbearable, a court was told yesterday. Middlesbrough borough council, Mr Watson's landlord, was prosecuting him for two breaches of a noise abatement notice made in May last year. Mr Watson took a five-year lease on the forge in April 1990 and has a £12,000 a year turnover. David Scourfield, his solicitor, told the court: "The council acted very unreasonably in applying to the tenancy the condition that it could only be used as a forge, and then keeping quiet about the noise nuisance." Mr Watson admitted breaching the abatement notice and was fined £100 with no order for costs or compensation.

Telegraph price rises

From this morning the price of *The Daily Telegraph* on a Saturday will increase by 10p to 60p. It is the second cover price rise within a six-month period. *The Times* continues to cost 50p on a Saturday and 45p from Monday to Friday.

Attorney-general to oversee extradition of murder suspect

BY STEWART TENDLER AND DOMINIC TONNER

PHILIP Bailhache, the attorney-general for Jersey, said yesterday that he might travel to Gibraltar to help prepare the extradition application to bring Roderick Newall back to court on the island, charged with the murder of his mother and father in 1987.

Mr Newall, located on his 60ft yacht off the Canary Islands earlier this week, was arrested by police on board the frigate HMS *Argonaut* and taken to Gibraltar. Nicholas and Elizabeth Newall vanished in October 1987. Last year a legal hearing to declare the couple legally dead heard evidence from a forensic scientist that they had been killed in their home. Yesterday Mr Bailhache would not say whether he foresaw any difficulties or how long any extradition pro-

cess would take although he said no trial was likely before next year.

Jersey is covered by the 1989 Extradition Act but Gibraltar is subject to an extension of different legislation within the 1967 Fugitive Offenders Act. Chief Insp Bill Damino, of the Jersey police, said that if the case on which extradition was based went unchallenged the process could take a few weeks. If Mr Newall decided to fight it could take many months.

Jersey police said no warrant had been issued for Mr Newall's brother Mark and that they had no plans to interview him. Police were not carrying out any search for the bodies of the Newalls.

While Roderick remained in a Gibraltar prison, Mark was in Paris, where he works for an Arab bank. Since their

parents' death the Newall brothers seem to have gone very separate ways. Roderick settled for a life mainly at sea while Mark continued his banking and City career. Their links with Jersey have grown weaker, apart from their parents' home which they still own and now stands empty.

At the time of his parents' disappearance in 1987, Roderick, then 22 and educated at Radley, near Oxford, was a lieutenant with the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets. He had signed for a three-year commission in 1984 and then extended it for another year. In 1988, a few months after the Newalls vanished, he left the army.

In the next few years he turned to the sea. His parents had been sailors and Roderick took their £25,000 yacht and began sailing abroad. He is known to have sailed down to the Falkland Islands and made a number of other trips. Earlier this year he returned to Britain with plans to set up a yacht chartering business and began looking for a new vessel. Last month he bought the *Austral Soma*, thought to be worth up to £500,000, and headed from Britain for the Falklands.

Mark, now 26, sold his home on Jersey after his parents' vanished. He has worked in the United States and is now settled in France. Yesterday he was not available for comment at his office but was reported to be surprised at the news of his brother's arrest.

Steven Beldahan, who was crewing Roderick Newall's yacht when it was boarded off the Canary Islands, arrived back in Britain last night and said that he was stunned by what had happened. He had been questioned by police in Gibraltar for several hours.

He was asked long he had known Mr Newall. "I felt they were being particularly hard on him. He was handcuffed during the journey into Gibraltar and was looking very depressed, staring at the ground most of the time," said Mr Beldahan, of Staines, west London.

Wanted man tricked on to Navy frigate

BY DOMINIQUE SEARLE
IN GIBRALTAR

THE man arrested at sea off Casablanca on Thursday was tricked on to a Royal Navy frigate, the ship's captain admitted yesterday.

Roderick Newall, 27, yesterday completed his first day in the remand wing of Gibraltar's Moorish Castle prison while Jersey police prepare a case for extradition in connection with the murder of Mr Newall's parents in 1987.

It emerged from sources representing Mr Newall that he feels he was treated in an unnecessarily harsh way and was tricked on to the frigate HMS *Argonaut* after this was a routine inspection.

Steve Beldahan, a crew member of Mr Newall's 60ft yacht, *Austral Soma*, left Gibraltar for Britain yesterday. Mr Newall's lawyers are questioning why a Jersey warrant has been issued five years after the event and why this dramatic arrest was necessary when Mr Newall was apparently in Britain about a month ago and was arrested



Newall: told it was a routine inspection

His Gibraltar lawyer, Chris Finch, claimed that Mr Newall was flung to the deck at gunpoint. Military personnel agreed that Mr Newall and Mr Beldahan had been returned to Gibraltar handcuffed below decks in a spreadeagled position.

Captain Bob Stevens of *Argonaut* said the approach to *Austral Soma* had been "involuntary", and in radio conversations the navy pretended not to know the name of the boat or its passengers.

Ashdown case man 'a pawn'

BY LIN JENKINS

THE man who tried to sell a document to the *News of the World* detailing the sexual relationship between Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, and his former secretary claimed yesterday that he was a pawn in a general election smear campaign.

Simon Berkowitz told the jury at the Central Criminal Court that in retrospect he was foolish to take the stolen document from a man he barely knew in his local pub. At the time he had not been suspicious but he now believes that the whole incident

"had deeper political implications" and was an orchestrated attempt at muck-raking. It was only when the *News of the World* carried a story saying the document had been stolen and linking it to Watergate that he became suspicious.

Asked by Judge Michael Coombe to explain what he meant, Mr Berkowitz replied: "I firmly believe that this had deeper implications than would appear on the surface... it was an attempt to smear Mr Ashdown, and indeed to smear the Conservative party as well because I was a Conservative member."

The hearing continues on Monday.

"I just feel that somehow or

JCB thief runs over and kills woman, 75

BY NICHOLAS WATT

POLICE launched a manhunt yesterday after an elderly housekeeper was killed when she tried to prevent a thief from stealing a JCB digger belonging to the family she had served for 56 years. Annabella Bowman, 75, fell under the digger's rear wheels after she chased the thief for 100 yards.

The family offered a £15,000 reward to catch the killer of the woman who had been their nanny for three generations. Miss Bowman's godson, Michael Smyth, who was brought up by her, said: "She came to work for my nan and granddad. She was the best woman in my life."

Miss Bowman was alone in the house she shared with Mr Smyth in Enfield, north London, on Thursday night, when she heard the thief start up the JCB digger parked outside.

Jimmy Croft, who saw the incident from his shop, said: "The JCB went past and there was a figure in green hanging on to the door handle. The figure was hanging on between the two wheels on the left hand side of the vehicle and the driver must have seen her. She was trying to get him to stop and must have been screaming and shouting."

The next thing was that

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The trials of poor Jani

JANI Allan always was the poor little rich girl who went for broke. But after the glamorous South African's tibel trial defeat, even her former friends were



asking why she had reduced her reputation and finances to the tattered state of the now-famous green underpants of her neo-Nazi lover...

Stuart Wavell on the turbulent career of Jani Allan, in The Sunday Times tomorrow



Bowman: family offers reward of £15,000



Picking up the threads: John McCarthy and Jill Morrell, who are writing the story of Mr McCarthy's five-and-a-half years in captivity

McCarthy celebrates one year of freedom

BY BILL FROST

JOHN McCarthy, the former Beirut hostage, today celebrates the first anniversary of his release from a tiny cell and the casually sadistic treatment meted out over five-and-a-half years by his Lebanese captors. In an open letter released yesterday Mr McCarthy and his girlfriend, Jill Morrell, speak of the "daunting task" they face as they try to rebuild their lives after the ordeal.

"We have been trying to return to some semblance of normality," they said. "We have spent the time very quietly getting to know each other again, and in John's case, picking up with friends and family."

The letter goes on: "John has been getting to know the world as it is in 1992 and coming to terms with both dramatic political changes and the way in which friends have moved on

in their lives. It is still a daunting task."

Mr McCarthy's joy and relief today will almost be outweighed by anger and distress over what he claims is an attempt by fellow British television journalists to exploit his suffering. Mr McCarthy is furious about a Granada television drama-documentary, made without his co-operation, which is due to be broadcast this autumn. At one stage he contemplated legal action to compel the company to shelve the film. Mr McCarthy said: "I am distressed that anyone should try to portray my story when I haven't been able to tell it myself. It gives me a feeling of being exploited."

Mr McCarthy is writing the story of his captivity in collaboration with Miss Morrell. The couple, who have studiously avoided the press since they began the project, have taken a

country cottage in the Home Counties. They write in separate rooms during the day and compare the two sides of their story each evening.

Mark Lucas, Mr McCarthy's literary agent, said the manuscript would be ready for publication next spring. "The book is very raw, very painful and very funny. John and Jill have very different styles but the two blend together very well," he added.

Mr McCarthy's captivity had left deep psychological wounds. Mr Lucas said: "He has to come to terms with being in charge of his own destiny after years of being controlled by his captors. Now he can decide when to speak, when to stay silent, when to get up and when to go to bed."

However, the television drama-documentary had tested McCarthy's good humour and tolerance almost beyond their limits. Mr Lucas said:

"Grenada are short-changing the hostages and short-changing the public. How can they tell the story when the main players are still trying to work it out for themselves?"

Pat McCarthy, John's father, said: "He seems to be in terrific form - cheerful, very much in charge and very happy with Jill. But I don't ask him about his time as a hostage. I wait for him to bring things up in conversation, but that does not happen very often." He said that no special celebration was planned for today.

Those close to John McCarthy emphasise the difficulty he has had in coming to terms with life as a free man. "He has had to get to know people again, has had to make decisions, even down to what to order in a restaurant. But he is a survivor - same, strong, cheerful and optimistic about life," one friend said.

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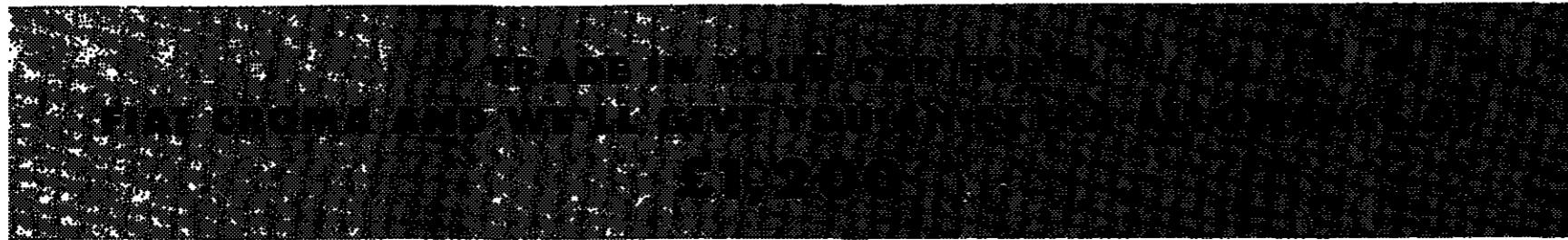
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Exotic species on our shores may be the first concrete signs of global warming

Wildlife brings warning of changes in climate

WIDESPREAD changes taking place in the behaviour of British wildlife may be the first tangible signs of global warming, some scientists believe.

A series of new behaviour patterns is becoming visible in insects, birds, fish and small marine animals in and around the British Isles. Young are emerging earlier in the year, species are extending their ranges both in distance and altitude, and species new to the country are appearing. Some species are booming past previous records, while others have suffered marked declines.

Individually, many of the changes seem minute and have hardly been noticed except by specialist observers. Put together, as *The Times* will attempt to do for the first time in a series beginning today, they form a picture of ecosystems in Britain apparently undergoing significant alteration.

Some scientists are now considering whether these are the early warning signs of the long-term climate change predicted by computer models of the greenhouse effect, the



Scientists suspect that changes in the habits of birds and insects in Britain, and fish and other marine life around our coasts, may be evidence that the world really is getting warmer, reports Michael McCarthy in the first of a series

warming of the Earth's atmosphere by the increased emission of industrial gases, such as carbon dioxide from coal-fired power stations and motor vehicles.

Professor John Lawton, director of the Centre for Population Biology at Imperial College, London, says: "When you look at marine life, insects, birds and the signature from all this, it certainly looks suspicious and it is consistent with climate change. The probability of all these things being independent events and not due to climate change gets extremely small."

Bernard Tinker, director of terrestrial and freshwater sciences for the Natural Environment Research Council, agrees that there is "clear evidence that there are changes going on", but insists that it is too early to say whether they signify a real change in climate or just a limited period of warmer weather.

"Whether these represent the beginning of the long-term warming trend that we expect, of up to two or three degrees, one can't yet say. There have always been climatic variations," he said.

Dr Tinker said that Britain was a particularly good country in which to ask the question: is something happening?

"We have good sets of records, a wide spectrum of climate, and a lot of boundaries where species are at the limit of their ranges," he said.

This last factor makes for a vivid backdrop against which changes can be seen. Several bird species, such as the nutcracker, are moving north in England, beyond their previous breeding range, as are a number of butterfly species, such as the comma. Other birds, such as Savi's and Cetti's warblers, are moving into southern England for the first time from continental Europe.

An increasing number of tropical fish, such as the triggerfish and the marbled ray, are being found around British coasts, while in the Channel a whole series of cold-water marine animals such as jellyfish, planktonic arrow-worms and barnacles have been displaced in the last decade by their warm-water cousins.

Mayflies, the favourite insects of the trout fisherman, appear to be hatching up to a fortnight earlier than usual on some of the famous chalk streams such as the River Test, while aphids, the most destructive of Britain's agricultural pests, are flying into crops earlier than recorded before.

Some of these changes seem to pre-date the period of noticeably warmer weather in Britain, which began with the winter of 1988-9, and has led to the present drought in parts of the south and east. Others seem to parallel it.

Seven of the world's eight warmest years on record have occurred since 1983, and 1990 was the hottest year recorded, both for Britain and the globe as a whole.



In flight: the nuthatch is moving north



Fairweather friend: a triggerfish, one of the tropical species invading UK waters

Air hunts for poachers criticised

BY KERRY GILL

THE government was accused yesterday of using huge amounts of public money to protect privately owned estates from salmon poachers in the Western Isles.

Helicopters are being hired by the fisheries protection agency at an average of £400 an hour to patrol island coastlines in their hunt for illegally laid salmon nets. Calum Macdonald, Labour MP for the Western Isles, has demanded that the government disclose the amount of taxpayers' money being spent on the patrols.

Mr Macdonald said that at least "tens of thousands of pounds" a year were being spent trying to catch poachers

who, he said, posed only a tiny threat to salmon stocks in the islands. Each helicopter flight, he said, lasted several hours. "It is a lot of public expense for little public benefit simply to protect the interests of private landowners. People are being harassed and there simply isn't a problem to justify this kind of activity." The notion that there are giant criminal cartels carrying out poaching on a huge scale was ludicrous.

The disclosure has done nothing to mollify local opinion that private landowners control too much of the Western Isles and a view that the Scottish Office is allowing itself to be used as a tool of

estate owners Lewis and Harris is almost entirely under the ownership of private estates.

Last year the agency found 110 illegal salmon nets in Scottish inshore waters. Seizures this year amounted to 67 nets by the end of last month.

Last night a spokeswoman for the agency said: "Salmon catches have declined in recent

years and strict enforcement is therefore necessary to protect salmon fishing and the major benefits this brings to tourism and the Scottish economy.

The agency is convinced that the resources involved are necessary to tackle a serious problem of illegal fishing and offer good value for money.

Police chiefs oppose gun control changes

BY STEWART TENDER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CHIEF constables are opposing government plans to create a civilian firearms control board to regulate private gun ownership because police fear the new board will not protect the public as well as current police control of firearms.

The chief constables argue that the new system would remove the valuable local intelligence gathered by officers which is often useful in deciding whether the certificates should be issued. They want to keep the police power to veto licences or certificates, and say the current system does not need changing.

Police also argue that costs for the board, mooted by the Home Office earlier this year, could prove to be very inaccurate. The cost of certificates would rise steeply and gun owners might abandon shooting or be tempted to keep guns without a licence. The Association of Chief Police Officers has already sent evidence to the Home Office on some parts of the proposals. A meeting of chief constables has now endorsed the opposition to the proposal.

According to the Home Office, 55,600 new shotgun and firearms licences were issued in 1990 and 273,000 were renewed. Under the current system, responsibility for

Flights hit as crews walk out

EARLY morning flights from Manchester and Birmingham were disrupted by a two-hour lightning strike by British Airways cabin crew yesterday.

The stoppage followed the imposition of a pay and conditions package which the Transport Union says will cost each employee £2,000 a year.

Passengers eventually got away on combined flights or with other airlines. British Airways said it was not officially advised about the stoppage, which happened when staff attended a mass meeting.

George Ryde, the union's national aviation secretary, apologised to passengers and said that if BA had responded to the union's call for urgent negotiations, several weeks ago, the disruption would have been avoided.

"We regret any inconvenience this dispute has caused to the travelling public. I hope this issue can now be resolved and we are ready to talk to BA today," he said. A BA spokesman said the airline was "surprised and disappointed" by the walkout.

The plan has received support from shooting groups. The Home Office's own firearms consultative committee also supported the change, although it has argued that the police should be involved. Police members of the committee were opposed to changes.

Planning rules 'hinder efforts to protect the countryside'

BY DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

COUNCILS are being intimidated into granting planning permission by the threat that they will have to pay heavy costs to developers if they refuse, a report published yesterday says.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England says that the slightest error by planners can lead to councils having to pay thousands of pounds to people whose plans have been turned down. In particular councils who refuse plans on environmental grounds were vulnerable to costs orders on the basis that protecting the countryside was not a valid reason for refusal.

Tony Burton, the CPRE's senior planner, said the system was meant to deter those who sought to delay planning enquiries for their own ends. Instead it was acting to inhibit councils seeking to protect the environment. A draft government circular on costs in planning proceedings offered no protection for councils who sought to use environmental grounds to reject planning applications.

"Planning authorities must feel confident in refusing planning permission on environmental grounds and be assured of government support," said Mr Burton.

Among the examples cited

is an instrument of environmental policy. It should ensure that this is not undone by a policy on costs which intimidates planning authorities from applying environmental policies."

□ A £3 billion scheme for offices, homes and a park at King's Cross was given qualified approval by Camden council yesterday. Council officers will meet the developers next week to agree final terms for granting outline planning permission for 134 acres of derelict land north of the railway terminus, the biggest vacant inner city site in Europe.

Camden has taken three years to approve the scheme in principle. Among the conditions set by the council is a reduction in office space by 615,000 sq ft to 5.25 million sq ft. The scheme includes two 550ft towers designed by Sir Norman Foster, 35 acres of open space and 1,300 homes for local people to rent. When it is completed, the developers say 25,000 people will be employed in the area.

Gordon Graham of the development consortium, which includes property firms Rosehaugh and Stanhope and the National Freight Corporation, said work would probably not start before 1995.

Deaf driver caught by his chatter

A DEAF and dumb man arrested for drink-driving was driving erratically because he was chattering in sign language to his passenger, magistrates heard yesterday.

Keith Hylton, an unemployed labourer, was banned for a year after he admitted driving with excess alcohol in his breath in Wardour Street, Soho, London, at 2.50am on June 27. Magistrates warned him that, when his ban expired, he should not try to drive and talk in sign-language at the same time.

Patricia Leafham, for the prosecution, said Hylton, 27, of Wood Green, north London, was stopped for driving erratically and breath tests showed that he was one point clear of double the drink limit.

"I was looking for a car park as I wanted to walk to a club, and at the last minute police stopped me as I was finding it difficult finding the car park and there were yellow lines everywhere," Hylton told the court through a sign-language interpreter. "Because my passenger and I are both deaf, we were talking in sign-language."

He was also fined £100, with £20 costs, after apologising to the magistrates.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Driving test fondler is jailed

A driving examiner was jailed for four months at Oxford Crown Court yesterday for fondling the breasts of four women as they took their tests. Clinton Hadley, 35, of Great Barr, Birmingham, had denied indecently assaulting the women in Oxford last November.

The Recorder, Conrad Seagoatt, QC, said that Hadley, found guilty on Thursday, had abused his position of trust and taken advantage of the women. "This was a clear case of sexual harassment — a man in a position of trust who took advantage of four women in a nervous state."

Hadley had regarded the women as "a happy hunting ground" while he was on secondment to a driving test centre in Oxford and away from his family, he told the court.

David Iles, for the prosecution, told the court that all four women had passed their driving test, but each later complained that Hadley touched their breasts during the tests. One of the women said Hadley told her: "If you are nice to me I will be nice to you."

Man killed in fuel tank blast

A man died in an explosion at a combined heat and power station in Hereford yesterday. Hundreds of people were evacuated as the blaze spread to three large fuel tanks.

Burning fuel flowed through the streets, setting parked cars alight and bringing the centre of the city to a standstill. The explosion happened while a contractor was welding indicator equipment on a 60ft high fuel tank at the station, next to the HP Bulmer Cider factory.

Escape charges

A probation officer, Pamela Luck, 53, from Faversham, Kent, was remanded on bail at Sittingbourne yesterday accused of helping Michael Fenlon, convicted armed robber, to escape from custody and harbouring him.

Bodies named

Two bodies washed up at Porthgain, west Wales, earlier this week were identified yesterday as Martin Horsley, 45, and his son Benjamin, 18, of Notton, West Yorkshire. They were swept out to sea three weeks ago.

Sunday launch

Yorkshire's first Sunday newspaper will be launched tomorrow, undercutting existing nationals at 45 pence. The 72-page *Yorkshire on Sunday*, owned by Westminster Press, is being printed at Bradford. West Yorkshire.

Alcohol ban

Terrance Lang, a coach driver of Perranporth, Cornwall, was fined for setting out on a jol while almost three times over the alcohol limit, was banned from drinking alcohol as condition of bail at Horsefair Road court, Westminster.

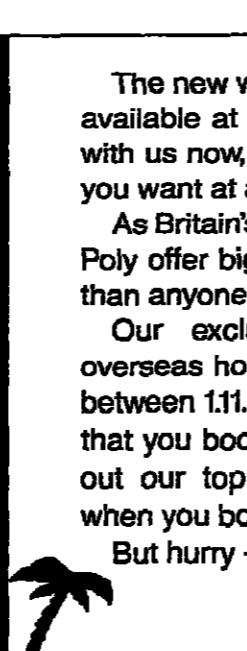
Late medal

Ron Young, 82, a war veteran of Newport, Gwent, has been awarded a campaign medal by Russian officials nearly 50 years after he served on a vitt relief convoy. Only five of 3 ships carrying medical supplies arrived; the rest were sunk by German U-boats.

Charity verdict

A crown court judge has sentenced himself to 24 hours solitary confinement. Judge Ian McIntosh will do time in Truro to raise money for the city's cathedral. His only fine will be a cake containing a file

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THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 8 1992

Driving
tondele
is jailed

Tycoon Rowland helps to broker Rome ceasefire deal in 16-year conflict

Mozambique rivals agree to end war

By JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Mozambican government and Renamo, the national resistance movement, signed an agreement yesterday committing them to a total ceasefire in their 16-year war by October 1.

The accord was signed in the Italian Senate building by President Chissano and Afonso Dhlakama, the Renamo leader. The ceremony crowned three days of talks in Rome that began with the first face-to-face meeting between the two former enemies since the war began. Observers in Southern Africa said that the talks had achieved everything expected other than an immediate ceasefire. "October 1 is not a very long way away in terms of the Mozambique war," one Harare-based expert said.

Mozambique watchers said the agreement was a considerable triumph for the country's church leaders, who arranged the talks with Italy, which is the biggest aid donor in Mozambique, via the Vatican. It also was a coup for President Mugabe of Zimbabwe, and Roland "Tiny" Rowland, the chief executive of the Lonrho conglomerate that has wide interests in Africa. The rebel leader flew to the talks on Mr Rowland's private aircraft.

At the signing ceremony, the two Mozambican leaders addressed each other as "dear brother" and promised that over the next seven weeks their representatives would negotiate a comprehensive peace agreement. The civil war has



embraced the British businessman after the ceremony and President Mugabe told him: "Well done."

Mr Rowland has considerable mining and agricultural interests in Mozambique, which is potentially a hugely rich country. One observer in Harare said: "If there weren't a war, Mozambique would be quite a good investment so long as you brought your own infrastructure."

He said that it was probably the influence of Mr Rowland that brought the rebel leader to a meeting with President Mugabe a month ago, where he agreed to meet the Mozambican president. "Rowland has oiled the wheels of the thing," the observer said.

A partial ceasefire was signed in Rome in December 1990 but took months to come into effect. African experts said that how long the total ceasefire will take to be implemented is difficult to determine because nobody knows the exact extent of Mr Dhlakama's power. "Renamo is not much more than a locally based warlord organisation," said one diplomatic source in Harare. "You can expect an end to politically motivated attacks on economic targets, communications and villages. What will contin-

ue is the banditry. Mozambique is awash with weapons."

Mr Rowland plans to follow up his success in Mozambique by brokering a peace accord for Sudan within the next couple of months, he said yesterday. He told reporters in Rome that he was also working to end the Sudanese civil war, in which the Sudan People's Liberation Army

(SPLA) has been fighting since 1983 to end what it says is domination of the non-Muslim south by the Arabised north. "We are also very much interested in a settlement in the Sudan... it's going to be six to eight weeks before an agreement is signed," he said. He said his mediation efforts go back eight years and are not motivated by money. "Of

course not. I'm too old for that. I'm 75. It's no longer business, it's my personal involvement," he said.

Mr Rowland said he had often put his private jet at the disposal of Colonel John Garang, the SPLA leader, and would be flying with him in the next few days to an unspecified African destination to work on the peace process. He was trying to bring Colonel Garang together with Lieutenant General Omar Hassan al-Bashir, the Sudanese head of state.

"I've flown with Garang, but also with al-Bashir and before that with Sadiq al-Mahdi [the former prime minister] and before that with Jaafar Nimeiri [the former president]."



Embracing peace: President Chissano of Mozambique, left, hugging Renamo's Afonso Dhlakama yesterday

Kenya opposition meets to heal rift

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

LEADERS of Kenya's opposition parties met yesterday in an attempt to heal a split that threatens to divide the electorate along tribal lines and destroy opposition chances of winning in the first multiparty elections in 20 years.

No election date has been set by President Moi who has until March next year to decide when to hold the polls. It is believed here that he would try to exploit the rift within the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy (Ford) and call a snap election in the next two months.

"Having been seen as the leaders of the opposition movement and the natural heirs to power, Ford is looking totally unelectable," a diplomat said yesterday. "There is a real chance that Moi will go to the polls soon and sweep the board. A few months ago a victory for Kanu [President Moi's Kenya African National Union] would have been a long shot. Now, thanks to the silly behaviour of Ford, it looks like a near certainty." The first split with-

in Ford came at the end of last month when Kenneth Matiba and Martin Shikuku, the party general secretary, demanded that the first elections within the party be postponed from August 1 in an attempt to head off a bid for the leadership by Jaramogi Oginga Odinga, the interim chairman of Ford and Kenya's first vice-president under Jomo Kenyatta.

The election, boycotted everywhere except in strongholds of Mr Oginga's Luo tribe, was marked by the violent deaths of two Ford activists. Since then both sides have resorted to the sort of political rhetoric which in the past would have been only directed at the president. Mr Shikuku recently accused Mr Oginga of being a "dictator", while Mr Shikuku himself has been viewed with suspicion by some opposition groups after having a meal with Mr Moi. His enemies within Ford believe that he has been charged with wrecking it in return for the post of vice-president under Mr Moi.

Slovo asks de Klerk to admit his 'guilt'

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

IT IS almost ten years since Ruth First, the wife of Joe Slovo, leader of the South African Communist Party, was assassinated by a parcel bomb while in exile in Maputo, Mozambique.

Yesterday, Mr Slovo, now the avuncular hero of the young black militants, ruminated in public about reconciliation with the men in the security establishment who sanctioned her death on August 17, 1982. The thoughts of retribution for apartheid's crimes were brought about, he said, by seeing the Johannesburg production of *Death and the Maiden*, in which he says he identified with the lawyer husband who heads a commission to uncover the crimes committed against detainees in Chile during the Pinochet years. Paulina, the lawyer's wife in the play, had been savagely tortured and raped, and he unwittingly brings the suspected torturer home to supper.

Writing in *Business Day*, the daily paper of the commercial establishment, Mr Slovo says: "More than once, sitting opposite government teams at the negotiating table and facing among others, luminaries of the security establishment, I wondered which of them gave the nod for the killing of my wife." He



Slovo's wife was killed by parcel bomb

quotes Paulina: "I can only forgive someone who really repents, who stands up among those he has wronged and says, 'I did this, I did it and I will never do it again'."

Mr Slovo writes: "If Nuremberg-type trials are not on the agenda, then at the very least the truth must out. The most unconvincing aspect of President de Klerk's conversion is that... he refuses to confess his own complicity in apartheid's crimes. This covers at least a share of the political responsibility for the torture and cell and death squad killings of so many hundreds of political activists." He concludes: "So let's hear de Klerk say, 'I helped do it and I'll never do it again'."

THE TIMES

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Aidid men
reject UN
Somali role

FROM REUTER IN
BARDERA, SOMALIA

FEASTING on steak and spaghetti, Somali gunmen said yesterday they were adamantly opposed to a United Nations plan to deploy a blue beret force to bring food for millions of starving Somalis.

"We cannot allow armed foreigners. Bringing in foreign troops is an infringement of the sovereignty of the people of Somalia," Muhammad Ahmed Noor, a senior aide to General Muhammad Farah Aidid, the Mogadishu warlord. "All we need is more food to give our forces so they can then take care of security. The UN has only one option — to flood the country with food," he said, to nods of agreement from fellow fighters.

At a home for displaced people some 200 yards from the high command in Bardera, scores of starving children were dying or sliding towards death, unaware of the arguments. Other children sleep on the road or in abandoned warehouses, in makeshift houses of paper sticks, polythene and cardboard boxes. They have no blankets or clothes, and are dehydrated and hopeless.

"We saw 30 deaths in 20 minutes late on Wednesday," one relief worker said. "It is grim." Thousands of people have been killed or maimed because of General Aidid's feud with his rival, President Ali Mahdi Muhammad.

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Iraq leaders 'split over showdown with UN'

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

A DIVISION has emerged in the innermost circle of the leadership in Iraq over whether to provoke another confrontation with the West on weapons inspections, according to a senior figure in the country's opposition.

The rift came as the latest United Nations inspection team arrived in Baghdad yesterday, prompting President Bush to deliver a second strong warning to President Saddam Hussein not to impede the inspectors' search for Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

Saddam is inclining towards the hardline faction led by his eldest son, Uday,

which believes that the time is ripe for provocative action,

said Ahmad Chalabi, a member of the Iraqi National Congress, a coalition of opposition groups that met James Baker, the American Secretary of State, this week.

"This factor calculates that President Bush lacks the resolve for a fight now because of the Middle East peace process, his preoccupation with Yugoslavia and his re-election campaign," Dr Chalabi said in a telephone interview from Washington. "They argue that challenging the West is the best way of deflecting internal problems. There is real unrest in the Republican Guards and with the economic crisis."

The second factor is urging Saddam not to provoke a crisis, arguing that President Bush might use the opportunity to start a decisive military action. Dr Chalabi said after meeting American officials that Washington was determined to prevent Saddam from "generating crises whenever he chooses. Saddam will

enforce." Mr Bush, fighting for his political life in the presidential election, seems determined that there should be no repetition of the embarrassment last month when Saddam prevented an inspection of the agriculture ministry for three weeks, then dictated the composition of a new UN inspection team.

President Bush made no direct reference to the use of force yesterday, but on Thursday Martin Fitzwater, his spokesman, pointedly observed that "no one should be under any apprehension that there are not ways to seek a very forceful compliance".

American officials said the team intends to inspect a range of Iraqi facilities, possibly including a government ministry. If Iraq resists, contingency plans call for an immediate denunciation of Iraq by the UN Security Council, followed by allied bombing of selected targets if Iraq still did not back down.

Saddam has relied on bluster and defiance in recent weeks to boost his standing at home, while Mr Bush has made it clear that he will not allow himself to be embarrassed again by a dictator he was supposed to have toppled in the Gulf war. More triumphalist rhetoric is expected from Saddam today on the fourth anniversary of the end of the eight-year war with Iran. The Iraqi news agency said Saddam, "the hero of victory and peace", would "address an important pan-Arab speech to the glorious Iraqi people".

By 255 votes to 164 on Thursday night, the House approved the Freedom Support Act whose proponents employing a certain hyperbole compared it to the Marshall Plan that promoted Europe's recovery after the second world war. All four



Country matters: Bill Clinton, the Democratic presidential candidate, petting a cow at a fair in Clayton County, Iowa. The campaign caravan of the Arkansas governor moved through the state before ending a tour of Midwestern farm communities in LaCrosse, Wisconsin

Congress approves aid bill to save Russian democracy

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AFTER four decades in which the US House of Representatives approved thousands of billions of dollars to combat communism around the world, it has finally approved a multibillion-dollar aid package for Russia.

By 255 votes to 164 on Thursday night, the House approved the Freedom Support Act whose proponents employing a certain hyperbole compared it to the Marshall Plan that promoted Europe's recovery after the second world war. All four

living former presidents sent Congress a letter urging passage of the legislation to save Russia's fragile democracy.

President Bush had first proposed the package on April 1, urging Congress to approve it before his June summit with President Yeltsin, but it quickly became entangled in election-year politics, with congressmen terrified of being seen putting foreign aid before America's pressing domestic needs. The Senate approved the bill by 76-20 shortly after Mr Yeltsin's impassioned ad-

dress to Congress, but House Democratic leaders delayed a vote until they had extracted promises from the administration for greater spending on domestic public works projects and the like.

The legislation provides for a \$12 billion (£6.25 billion) increase in America's commitment to the International Monetary Fund, which is leading the West's efforts to transform Russia from communism to capitalism, up to \$3 billion towards an international trouble stabilisation fund, and £1.2 billion in direct economic, humanitarian and disarmament assistance. It also removes Cold War barriers to US loans and commerce with Russia.

Richard Gephardt, the Democratic House leader, called the bill "an investment in the peace and prosperity of the American people". Newt Gingrich, the Republican whip, said it was "as important a vote as any of us will ever cast", arguing that Hitler's rise might have been forestalled had America been more helpful to the Weimar republic in the 1920s.

There were dissenters. Maxine Waters, a Democrat, pointed out that her congressional district in Los Angeles was engulfed in flames and riots only ten weeks ago. "I don't know how we can do this for Russia or anyone else and continue to ignore our cities," she said. This week the IMF approved an inaugural \$1.2 billion in credits for Russia and the World Bank announced its first \$600 million loan.

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Leading article, page 11

Envoy push for end to Haiti deadlock

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

EFFORTS to end the deadlock in Haiti after a military coup ten months ago may be close to a breakthrough. But hopes for a return to power by Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the ousted president, remain slim as pressure mounts on the exiled priest to accept the provisional government functioning in his place.

The team is the first to be led by a Russian, Nikita Smidovich, in accord with UN agreement with Baghdad last month to reduce the dominance of American experts, whom Iraq had accused of being spies. Mr Smidovich insisted that his appointment was not dictated by the Iraqis, and diplomats pointed out that a team leader from Russia, formerly Saddam's main arms supplier, was a clear sign that Moscow was now fully behind Washington's drive to pull Iraq's teeth. He said his mission would centre on the hunt for scores of unaccounted-for Scud missiles, but would also try to unearth missing details in Iraq's nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons programmes.

In Moscow, a senior official said Russia might send warships to the Gulf to join in possible international action against Iraq. Colonel General Viktor Dubynin, chief of the Russian general staff, told Tass several combat vessels were ready to head to the Gulf, but the final decision belonged to President Yeltsin, the commander-in-chief.

Aristide in Washington to warn him that American support for an international economic embargo against Haiti could not be sustained.

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Clifford Longley

RE teachers must not fear charges of indoctrination

The distinguished clerical visitor, wishing to satisfy himself as to the schoolchildren's knowledge of Scripture, asked the class what their favourite story was. Up went a hand, from an eager lad at the back. "About Jesus, Sir," he said. "About when Jesus was found in the bulrushes." This story was going the rounds 20 years ago. It raised eyebrows then, of a "what have we come to?" kind. Today it is utterly implausible. Tell it to a staffroom of young teachers and they would not even get the joke. By and large state schools long ago abandoned the study of Scripture. By and large modern pupils (and their teachers too) could not state a single coherent thing about Jesus. Moses and the bulrushes might have been on another planet.

Successive secretaries of state for education have presided over the gradual creation of this spiritual desert, while uttering their emptiest platitudes in support of religious education and church schools. None has shown much inclination to stop the rot — not even those, like Shirley Williams or Margaret Thatcher, whose adherence to a religious faith was more than nominal. Most of them probably shared the anti-religious prejudice of the age. Until the appointment of John Patten. He is religious, and aggressive with it. When he says he is keen on religious education and church schools he seems to mean it.

Far from being embarrassed by the need to say such things, there is even a little fervour in him. The RE professionals will be more embarrassed by this commitment than he is. They have had to justify their place in a liberal, secular, agnostic educational framework, and distance themselves as far as possible from any charge of indoctrination. As a result RE took flight. But as it disengaged from its subject, so also it disengaged from the attention and interest of its students. Paradoxically, while dogma runs rife in the classroom in history or science, it was banished from the one sphere in which it properly belongs. So however else religion was to be taught, it was not to be taught as true nor as potentially attractive. Thus was paraded past bored classrooms, in the name of encouraging good race relations, a potted caricature of each of the many faiths, with most attention naturally to their rude and weird bits. And putting lots of them together helped them cancel each other out. So this was not indoctrination. Nothing is less appealing than other people's religious beliefs and rituals viewed coldly from without, one after another. It makes them as incomprehensible, and as risible, as the tone deaf teaching the theory of music to the tone deaf. And how telling a skinhead a few facts about Islam was supposed to make him less likely to bash a Pakistani was never explained.

Capital projects in church schools are now the Catholic Education Conference last month. Church schools which opt to be grant-maintained will for the first time be 100 per cent state funded (which will put an irresistible temptation in the way of heavily overdrawn diocesan education boards and committees). A new education bill will strengthen the RE clauses in the 1988 Education Reform Act. This week a consultation paper was published by Mr Patten's department, prior to framing this legislation.

The more school expansion is driven by parental choice, the more church schools are likely to be preferred. They already make up a fifth of all schools. It is not impossible to imagine them taking a quarter or more of all pupils. If, like Anglican schools, Catholic ones became less denominational selective, they would expand all the faster. Both types of school offer what parents seem to want above all, good manners.

The sooner the RE and church schools industry realises that its long, exhausting retreat from the high ground of 1944 is over, the better and more effective it will be. Already RE curriculum development is putting on new spiritual and intellectual weight, after a long period of starvation. The key task is to reconstruct an approach to RE that spreads a sympathetic understanding of religion, together with cultivating some affectionate familiarity of the basic shape of Christianity. This contradicts no professional educational principle. Any teacher who does not include imparting a love of his subject is not an educator. For too long, RE teachers thought they — they alone — were not allowed to do this, in the name of avoiding the charge of "indoctrination". Their anxiety was always groundless. To indoctrinate means, simply, to teach. Let them indoctrinate.

Germany cannot forget its history when responding to atrocities in Bosnia, says Mark Almond

Echoes of the Holocaust

Pictures of emaciated shaver-headed men cowering behind barbed wire in Bosnia are traumatic echoes of terrible events 50 years ago and their effect has been nowhere more emotive than in Germany. German politicians and public opinion are divided over what should be the proper response to the horrible and evocative images coming from Bosnia. To the grandchildren of Hitler's generation it is impossible to be passive in the face of pictures of cattle trucks packed with human cargo travelling to an unknown but sinister final destination.

Among modern Germans the sense of inherited guilt from the Nazi past forbids indifference to what is going on in Bosnia today: they do not have John Major's historical alibi that his forebears were on the right side of history. Indeed Germans of all political persuasions have been bewildered by Britain's half-hearted and foot-dragging response to the human tragedy in the Balkans.

In Britain there is a vocal lobby which accuses the newly united Germany, what it calls "the Fourth Reich", of stirring up trouble in the former Yugo-

slavia. Backed up by the Foreign Office's stave advocates of inaction this effectively pro-Serb lobby says that today's Germany has reverted to its aggressive and imperialist policies of 60 years ago and is seeking hegemony over the old Yugoslavia. The unlikely counterpart of Hitler or Bismarck in this scenario is Chancellor Helmut Kohl who is supposed to have bullied his European Community partners into recognising Slovenia, Croatia and then Bosnia as independent but *de facto* German satellite states. In practice Chancellor Kohl's government was pushed from below by German public opinion to break ranks when the Community's policy seemed bafflingly indifferent to the reality of the sufferings visible to any television viewer.

Today in Germany the political battles of intervention in Bosnia are clear: they are between those who say that of all countries Germany cannot stand aside and see the mass

deportation of civilians, old and young alike, in cattle trucks to be "resettled", as the Nazi euphemism had it the 1940s, and as some Serbs would have it again. Others, equally morally outraged, argue that the children of Hitler's conquerors of Yugoslavia in 1941 and of the organisers of the Holocaust should be the last people to throw their moral weight about and intervene on their old battlefields.

Modern Germany is a profoundly post-military society and it is not just political calculation — the desire to frustrate the governing right-wing — which has caused the Social Democrats to resist military intervention in Yugoslavia and to appeal to the German Supreme Court to rule on the constitutionality of Chancellor Kohl's decision to send a destroyer to join the UN arms blockade in the Adriatic. The excitement that the dispatch of a warship to a zone so remote

Süddeutsche Zeitung, there is general agreement that the responsibility for the terrible events in former Yugoslavia should be laid at the door of the Serbian government. There is also a shared resentment that German moral outrage should be portrayed by do-nothings elsewhere in Europe as a cover for revived expansionist ambitions.

As the German press demands either military intervention or effective humanitarian aid, German diplomats, and perhaps even foreign minister Klaus Kinkel, are coming closer to advocating the lifting of the UN arms embargo, which is hurting Bosnia far more than Serbia. They may well do so if no effective UN intervention to restore peace and ensure human rights is forthcoming. The passivity of the two EC permanent members of the Security Council, Britain and France, has also encouraged German calls for its own seat, or at least for a share

of influence, on the Security Council.

Unlike some of their neighbours Germans are only too well aware of the dangers of encouraging refugees to "stay close to their homes". Germans know full well what the closed door policy of many states meant to would-be Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany in the 1930s: it did not facilitate their return home, but transport to their deaths. Thus, even though it is already bursting at the seams with refugees and asylum seekers from all over the world (more than a third of a million entered this year alone) by tomorrow evening Germany will have taken another 5,000 Bosnian refugees. That is five times more than Britain has taken.

The Nazis had a cynical joke: Chamberlain took a weekend in the country while Hitler took a country in a weekend. Today the Germans have a right to feel that their country is doing more for destitute humanity than a weekend than on present form Britain is likely to do all year.

Mark Almond is a Fellow of the Institute for European Defence and Strategic Studies, London.

The prophet of revolution

Shelley's remarkable belief in the power of poetry to effect social change is the secret of his lasting appeal, writes Judith Chernaik

A strange and wonderful array of celebrations is marking the bicentenary of Shelley's birth which fell this week, including an early morning phone-in on Radio Sussex (the great poet was born near Horsham, and was banned from the ancestral home because of his atheism), and an evening on "Shelley and India" at the Nehru Centre, India House. The latter featured recitations of *Ode to the West Wind* and *The Cloud*, and a superb talk by the poet Kathleen Raine about Shelley's affinity with Indian mysticism. Shelley's tale of liberation, *Prometheus Unbound*, is set in the Indian Caucasus — a place, Dr Raine suggested, which could exist only in the imagination, since it cannot be found on any map.

But the courage and endurance which Shelley's Prometheus exemplifies are not of a particular place or time:

To suffer woes which Hope thinks infinite:
To forgive wrongs darker than death or night:
To defy Power, which seems omnipotent:

To love, and bear; to Hope till
Hope creates
From its own wreck the thing it
contemplates:
Neither to change, nor falter, nor
repent:

This life thy glory, Titan, is:

To be,
Good, great and joyous, beautiful
and free:

This is alone Life. Joy, Empire, and
Victory.

Reading these elegant lines; with their ironic reference to the Empire and Victory which still constitute the "glory" of nations, it is hard to understand the bafflement which Shelley in-

duced in a sophisticated reader like F.R. Leavis, or T.S. Eliot's snobbish dismissal of Shelley's ideas as "repellent".

Far from being repellent or obscure, his ideas were so far in advance of his age that they still represent an unnameable ideal, a Promethean vision of men and women as "Equal, uncrossed, tribeless and nationless". True, he was a rebel and a free-thinker. He attacked Christianity because of the carnage committed in its name, and because he could not reconcile the idea of a loving Creator with the doctrines of original sin and damnation.

"Let us believe in a kind of optimism in which we are our own gods," he wrote to his friend Maria Gisborne, "because Hope, as Coleridge says, is a solemn duty which we owe alike to ourselves and to the world." He took this solemn duty very seriously, and his poetry argued against the despair which in his age, as again in ours, seemed to follow every revolutionary upheaval, each brief glimpse of the vanishing form of Liberty.

Among the Shelley conferences around world this year, the most unlikely is scheduled for Pretoria, where South African Shelley scholars have taken as their theme a passage from his *Defense of Poetry*: "The most unfailing herald, companion or follower of the awakening of a great people to work a beneficial change in opinion or institution, is Poetry."

This remarkable claim for poetry — for the power of imagination to bring about social change — explains Shelley's appeal to readers as disparate as Browning and Baudelaire, Karl Marx and Gandhi, the visionary

Yeats and the socialist Shaw. Shelley saw himself as participating in a great movement of thought, produced in response to the French Revolution and the unprecedented hopes it generated. He believed that the poet — the prophet and "seer" who

sees into the hidden currents of his time more acutely than his fellows — has a special obligation to "make the best of ill", to argue against despondency. This is the element in Shelley which speaks so directly to readers across Europe and beyond, where tribalism seems to be reasserting itself with unimaginable ferocity — and also in the privileged West, where inequality, and its attendant misery has re-established itself as the norm.

It has always been possible to

read Shelley either as a prophet of revolution or an apostle of reform, a visionary who welcomes the apocalypse, the violent destruction of "sleeping regimes" along the Mediterranean, or an earnest advocate of non-violence. Shelley gave expression to both views, probably because he too was swept by the passions of his time and by their contradictions; and because he was a poet, not a political reformer.

At the heart of his poetry is a vision that transcends politics, a longing for "love and beauty and delight", a drive towards erotic mysteries of desire and consummation — and this aspect of Shelley also speaks directly to the modern sensibility. A reader who is not caught up in the sweep and power of his greatest poetry, *Ode to the West Wind* or *Adonais*, or his rhapsodic defence of free love, *Epipsychedion*, must be immune to the seductive call of Eros, deaf to the solicitations of "That Beauty in which all things work and move."

One year before he was drowned in the Bay of Spezia, just short of his 30th birthday, he wrote his own epitaph. The final stanza of *Adonais*, his elegy for Keats, who had just died in Rome, aged 25, tells us all we know or need to know about both poets:

The breath whose might I have invoked in song
Descends on me; my spirit's bark is driven.
Far from the shore, far from the trembling throng
Whose sails were never to the tempest given;
The massy earth and sphered skies are riven!
I am borne darkly, fearfully, afar:
Whilst, burning through the almost veil of Heaven,
The soul of Adonais, like a star,
Beams from the abode where the Eumenae are.

Judith Chernaik's novel about the Shelley circle, *Mab's Daughters*, has just been published by Pan at £5.99.



...and moreover

PHILIP HOWARD

Names of plants are among the oldest words in the world. The first things that settlers in a new land have to name are the brave new plants, as you can see from the early Australian and American word-lists. Etymology suggests that languages, which usually start in farming and hunting communities, need names for plants before they get round to naming less necessary things, such as politicians or journalists. Plant nomenclature is a fecund jungle, because the same plant often has a different name in each different country, county and even village. This is admirable for the richness of language, but less wonderful for communication between villages. So it is a green-letter year for understanding plants because of the publication of *The New Royal Horticultural Dictionary of Gardening*, the definitive bible for serious gardening students.

It is a giant work: four vols., three million words, entries for 50,000 plants, more than 250 contributors who are the choice and master/mistress gardeners, botanists and taxonomists of our age. This prodigious book is of entertainment and use even for those of us who regard gardening as a slug's game, having spent too many hours as children weeding charlock from wheat by hand, and who have brown thumbs, so that every green thing we touch withers. It is the kind of big book that the British still do better than anyone else in the world, and a

treasure for logophiles as well as diggers and weeder.

But, of course, it scratches only the surface of plant nomenclature. It is the last word for a generation on cultivars, the 20,000 or so plants that green-fingered man, in his eternal triumph of hope over greenery, tries to grow around the world, from the yam-mountains of Kiriwina to the deep-freeze dwarf vegetation of Alaska. But in its remit, it deals only with garden plants, not the vast majority of weeds and other plants unselected for gardens. A weed is merely something growing in the wrong place, which need not have got there yet, and not even to cultivate.

Let us plunge into the linguistic herbaceous border on the trail of what is called Old Man's Beard in Suffolk, where I weeded charcoal and which is beginning to whiten the hedge rows for horsey or harvest-home. I was surprised to find it in the *Horticultural Dictionary*, since I have always thought of it as weed not plant. But there it grows, as minor entry under the vast genus entry for Clematis. I suppose we might have guessed that clematis was first cultivated by those wizard gardeners in Japan, cultivated in Europe since the 16th century, and crossed with Chinese and European species.

The gardening dictionary is sound on the description of Old Man's Beard, for those feckless enough and with a big enough garden to try to cultivate it. But it has no room to deal with its

tangled history as weed, which stretches back many centuries through the hedges of England. They used to call it Viorna, which they explained, impersively, as *vias ornas*, because of its habit of "decking and adorning" waines and hedges". Hence one of its many modern names, Traveller's Joy. You can divide the villages of England between those which call it something like Grandfather's Whiskers, and those which call it something like Maiden's Hair. The Old Man or Grandfather, as often with English plant names, stands for the devil, whose Witches' Ropes or Devil's Gut can turn an English copse into an Amazonian jungle. But it is also named as the plant of God and the Virgin. Parkinson, in *Threatrum Botanicum* of 1640, wrote: "In English, of most country people where it groweth, Honesty; and the Gentlemen call it Love." A few years later John Aubrey reported that in Wiltshire they knew the white fluffy weed as Maiden's Honesty. It is Boy's Baccia and Shepherd's Delight because bad boys and shepherds smoked cigar lengths of the dry stems, which draw well and do not burst into flames.

Bertrand Russell was once asked by a young friend why he was looking so thoughtful. Russell replied: "I have made an odd discovery. Every time I talk to a philosopher I feel quite sure that happiness is no longer a possibility. Yet when I talk to my gardener, I am convinced of the opposite."

Many pennies for his thoughts

THE ELECTORATE in the constituency of Southampton Itchen will doubtless be relieved to hear that their former MP, Christopher Chope, the devoutly Thatcherite transport minister, will not be unemployed for much longer. He is following a troop of ex-ministers into the City, starting work on September 1 for Ernst & Young, one of the world's largest firms of accountants and management consultants.

Chope will have the novel title of Thought Leadership Adviser, and will be employed two days a week on a salary larger than the £43,000 he was paid as minister. "It is true that part of it will be for my expertise in dealing with government. I will be earning a lot

Help create the filthy rich then join 'em

C. CHOPE THOUGHT ADVISER

GED

more money," he says, declining to say how much more. "I also have a number of other ironies in the fire."

Having applied for one advertising job, Chope, a qualified barrister, says he secured the post thanks to "networking". Ernst & Young's clients can expect some novel lobbying techniques from him. Chope took his Ronweiler,



DIARY

Phaedra, to his office in Whitehall in an attempt to influence the dangerous dogs legislation.

The new job could not have come at a better time for Chope, who will soon have another mouth to feed. His wife Christo, formerly his Commons secretary, is expecting their second child any day. "Christo is in an entirely different sort of labour market," says the father-to-be.

Chope is the latest in a long line of senior Tories who have landed lucrative jobs in the private sector. Francis Maude, 39, already head of privatisation at Salomon Brothers and a director of Asda has just picked up his third job, as chairman of the lobbyists Public Policy Unit. In his spare time, Maude advised the Hongkong Bank in its bid for Midland.

Chope also has another reason for taking the Ernst & Young post. His office will give him a panoramic view of the Palace of Westminster. "I will be able to keep my eye on things," he says.

Fools' gold

THE PARTY to be at last night was the one held by Richard Matthews on board his yacht Crusader, at Cowes. Prior to Wednesday's Britannia Cup race, which Matthews won, the distributors of Mumm Cordon Rouge magnificently declared that they would present the winner with his weight in champagne. They had not reckoned on Matthews winning. He weighed in on Friday night at

around 19 stone, roughly 36 magnums. Mumm had stocked up with 16 stones-worth of bubbly, and a flabbergasted Nigel Croney of the champagne company was dashing round Cowes yesterday evening with a calculator, looking for three more stones-worth.

Amazing Grace

BRIAN JOHNSTON, who has eaten more birthday dinners this year than most of us eat in a decade, received a touching honour at the *Test Match Special* dinner on Thursday night. Peter Baldwin, chief executive of the Radio Authority came up with a personalised grace for the octogenarian commentator. The Rev Patrick Forbes, a former colleague of Baldwin's, appealed to the Almighty thus:

O Lord, you'd scarcely think it wicked To give you thanks for wondrous cricket. To celebrate the fans who make And send the lovely gifts of cake. Now shake off that great Grace attend To take guard at the bowlers end And prize with us the life of Brian. Whose commentaries we all rely on. Give thanks to God, you cricket lovers. For food and wine. Remove the covers!

Even radical political activists are susceptible to cutting remarks from their mothers-in-law. Joe Slovo, the white-haired leader of the South African Communist Party, writing in the arch-capitalist Johannesburg paper Business Day, says of his mother-in-law, Tilly First, who will be 94 on Christmas Day: "Memory aside, she is in reasonable shape. One of my daughters tells me that on her last visit, Tilly asked after me and enquired what business I was engaged in. She was told that I was working for the Communist Party. Her response was immediate: 'That's not much of a business these days, is it?'



THE CAR PERK RACKET

The Inland Revenue wants to change the basis on which income tax is assessed for company cars. Tax bands would in future be based on a car's list price. The Treasury should instead be looking to abolish all tax advantages for the company car. This peculiarly British method of remuneration has distorted both the market for executives and the market for cars.

The change proposed last month was foreshadowed in Norman Lamont's March Budget, where he duly collected points for greenness. Discouraging expensive cars discourages pollution. What Mr Lamont failed to achieve then, and what he should be pressing for now, is the abolition of all tax privileges for the company car, even the introduction of a mild disincentive.

If Mr Lamont wants to be seen to be green, tax on motoring should be charged per gallon of petrol consumed, not when a new car is bought and thereafter on each 12 months of ownership. It is burning petrol that pollutes and it is that which should be taxed. Simply owning a car does not damage the environment nor does buying a new one. The £110 annual vehicle tax and the 10 per cent extra purchase tax, which company car users avoid, should be transferred to petrol as a carbon tax, which all car users have to pay.

Relative tax disincentives already apply at some levels. But in various key segments of the company car market the playing field is far from level. Under the new Inland Revenue proposals, for instance, a company car whose list price is close to £19,500 and capacity just under 2,000 cc will incur a 40 per cent increase in tax liability. But modest cars (around £10,000) in the junior executive bracket, and so-called directors' cars in the £35,000 price range, will bring their users a tax decrease of as much as 15 per cent.

RELIEF OF MOSCOW

Russian reform is as vulnerable as a spider's web in a cloudburst. As the signs multiply that the reformers in the Russian government are losing ground, the US House of Representatives has at last approved the Freedom Support Act, America's contribution to the \$24 billion Western strategy for helping Russia and the other countries of the former Soviet Union overhaul their economies. The bill, sent to Congress by George Bush on April 1, has been delayed by election-year bickering, made worse by President Bush's refusal to do battle in its support.

Democrats wary of being accused of putting "foreign aid" before America's domestic troubles changed their votes only after an appeal by the Secretary of State, James Baker, who described it as "essential" to "securing a democratic peace". The bill is now, after negotiation between House and Senate, expected to become law by the start of the new American fiscal year in October.

The legislation nowhere approaches the grandeur of the postwar Marshall Plan, to which its supporters compared it in order to win its passage. The direct cost to American taxpayers is peanuts by comparison with the smallest domestic federal programme, and American jobs and businesses will recoup more than the cost of the aid from the bill's overdue removal of Cold War trade barriers. That does not diminish its political importance. Coupled with the IMF's release this week of \$1 billion in credit in recognition of Russia's "immense efforts" this year, and a \$600 million World Bank loan for essential imports, the House vote should help Boris Yeltsin in his confrontation with Russia's powerful state industry.

Mr Yeltsin and his team weathered the first months of reforms better than most people in the West predicted. But although queues have been replaced by street bazaars that lay the myth that Russians will never make entrepreneurs and price liberalisation has been followed by the beginnings of privatisation, the opposition is now becoming so formidable as to put in doubt not just the next, indispensable wave of reforms but the government's ability to hold the line. Yegor Gaidar, the "acting" prime minister,

FAITH IN THE UMPIRE

For generations it has been incumbent on cricketers of all nations and all levels to respect the impartiality of umpires. From the village green, where the umpires may be spare members of the batting side, to the Test match arena, where they have traditionally been natives of the host country, competence has often been questioned in private but neutrality has to be accepted as implicit.

There have always been suspicions of home-town decisions. But resentments have essentially been contained within the offended dressing-room. That is how it had to be the game's fragile base of law and order depended upon it. But the system has become open to abuse by public expressions of distrust and now, sadly, it has happened in the most flagrant manner. The displays of penitent dissent practised by the Pakistan touring players in this summer's Test series have underlined their own campaign for independent umpires more persuasively than any amount of mistaken decisions might have done.

Cricket is a sporting curiosity, a team game in which each decision is seen to affect the individual more than the unit. This accounts for much of its suspense and for its harsh scrutiny of those who play and those who officiate. The day when decisions ceased to be accepted with general good grace would be the day when anarchy prevailed and cricket itself became impossible.

This summer it has come perilously close. The Pakistanis' overt displeasure has twice provoked action from the match referee, a recently installed independent official appointed by the International Cricket Council.

Car manufacturers will promptly sit down with these new tax tables to redesign their range, in order to minimise the penalties. This is not fiscal neutrality, nor a level playing field, just a process of adapting, like any weekend golfer, to a new set of bumps. Companies which buy cars by the fleet will distribute their purchases differently. Meanwhile users of company cars will find it to their advantage to trade down.

Company cars are cheaper anyway. They are reckoned to account for as much as half of the annual new car purchases in Britain. With such bargaining power, fleet dealers do not pay list prices. Not only, therefore, is the average company car subsidised by the general taxpayer through tax concessions. It is also subsidised by the private motorist, who has to pay more for his new car in order to compensate dealers and manufacturers for the cut prices they offered company buyers.

Once fiscal neutrality is approached across the range, and the tax incentive to take a car in place of salary is phased out, the Treasury and the car industry will find companies trying to pull back from this perk by buying it out. More because of recession than fine calculations of tax advantages, company cars have already become a declining section of the new car market.

That apparent decline makes it a good time to move to the complete elimination of the company car as an attractive tax perk, making it instead, as on the Continent, just a functional tool of company business. Those now deemed to deserve a company car would be paid more and taxed accordingly. Only those who really need one should be given one; and if the tax regime is right, they should rather be pitied than envied. That is the green solution. It is also the equitable solution and the free market solution.

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA MILLS,
Director of Public Prosecutions,
4-12 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.
August 5.

GUILDFORD FOUR and trial delay

From the Director of Public Prosecutions

Sir, In his letter of August 6, Cardinal Hume asks why the trial of the Surrey police officers cannot take place until April 1993.

Following an extensive and detailed enquiry by the Avon and Somerset police, the Crown Prosecution Service received the final police report on October 12, 1990. On November 22, 1990, we instituted proceedings against the Surrey police officers.

The CPS was in a position to proceed with the committal of the case in early 1991. However, the successful application by the defence for the defendants to be discharged on the ground of abuse of process, and our subsequent appeal against the magistrate's decision, significantly delayed the progress of the case. The committal eventually took place on March 12, 1992.

At a hearing at the Central Criminal Court on March 27, 1992, a provisional date for the trial in October 1992 was discussed. Unfortunately, the involvement in another major case of both our leading counsel and leading counsel for one of the defendants meant that this date could not be fixed. Despite efforts to resolve the difficulty, on June 5, 1992, the court agreed to the defence's request for the trial to be fixed not before April 1993.

I fully appreciate Cardinal Hume's concern about the delay in the case and I have written to him in greater detail. Clearly, it is in the interests of everyone that the case is heard as soon as possible. But that must also include the interests of defendants in preparing and presenting their cases.

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA MILLS,
Director of Public Prosecutions,
4-12 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.
August 5.

Circuit judge preferred

From Mr M. J. Faraway

Sir, The recent appearance of advertisements for the post of chief inspector of magistrates' courts prompts me to ask whether or not it is a pity that a circuit judge is not being appointed to the post. If such an appointment is right for prisons, why not for magistrates' courts?

The efficiency of any court depends upon a mixture of administrative and magisterial decisions. The proposed inspectorate will have a difficult if not impossible task in separating the two and avoiding criticism of magistrates' decisions. An inspector who was a circuit judge would have not only the experience, but, more importantly, the authority, to observe and comment upon the totality of the court's performance.

I also deplore the decision to fix the salary at £47,000 per annum and on a fixed-term contract. This is bound to have a seriously depressing effect on the salaries of all lawyers in the service, right down to court clerk. The consequences upon the morale and efficiency of the service could be disastrous. Look at the Crown Prosecution Service and they have a head of service at £77,000 per annum.

There is still time for government to think again on this important issue. Let us hope that they do so.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL FARAWAY,
Clerk to the Justices,
Redbridge Magistrates' Court,
The Court House,
850 Cranbrook Road,
Ilford, Essex.

Star naming

From Mr Ian Ridpath

Sir, Readers whose interest in star naming was aroused by the letter from Ms Jacqui Clayton (August 4) may like to know that names of celestial objects that are not allocated by the International Astronomical Union remain entirely unofficial.

There is nothing to prevent any number of self-styled "star registrars" from renaming the stars and selling certificates to this effect for novelty purposes, but these names will not be recognised by astronomers.

As a matter of interest, the star named after Marilyn Monroe that Ms Clayton mentions is over six times too faint to be seen with the naked eye, and would be difficult to identify even with binoculars.

Yours sincerely,
IAN RIDPATH (Editor,
Norton's Star Atlas),
48 Ortho Court,
Brentford, Middlesex.
August 5.

Brussels rule

From Mr James Pilditch

Sir, John MacGregor, the transport secretary, was quoted (report, later editions, July 28) as saying: "We cannot have the Brussels machine seeking to define the Euro-sausage..." The report ends with the news that one of Britain's oldest pork butchers has stopped trading because of the £70,000 cost of complying with new EC regulations.

In other words, what democratically elected ministers, acting in the interests of the British people, say we cannot have, we do, in effect, have.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES PILDTITCH,
62 Cadogan Square, SW1.

Weekend Money letters, page 20

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Bosnia and conscience of the world

From the Chief Rabbi

Sir, The atrocities currently being committed in Bosnia strike at the very core of our consciences as citizens of the world. For surely our moral credibility after the Holocaust rests on a fundamental and collective commitment never again to be passive witnesses to the existence of mass exterminations, concentration camps and ethnic cleansing.

To be sure, no direct comparison can be made between events today and those which took place in Nazi Germany. But the reports emerging from Bosnia bear an uncanny resemblance, in manner if not in scale, to those which disfigured humanity half a century ago.

UN structure and its role in crises

From Lord Ennals

Much has been said about the tactical difficulties of military intervention to secure humanitarian relief, inspection of camps and an end to the expulsions and executions. But too little has been said about the moral impossibility of non-intervention.

For we have not learned in this unspeakable century that we bear collective responsibility not only for what we do but also for what we fail to prevent?

Yours sincerely,
JONATHAN SACKS,
Office of the Chief Rabbi,
Adler House,
Tavistock Square, WC1.

August 7.

Liaison at work on drug testing

From Mr David Bedford

Sir, Dr Lucking (letter, August 3) is right in saying that the British Athletics Federation should be glad to disseminate information about its drug testing; we are.

In April of this year the full details of our test results for the previous year were on show at a press briefing in London, and detailed information about the testing programme of athletics and other sports were sent to the editors of 28 daily and Sunday papers and to 27 radio and television commentators. At this time a summary of the previous year's results were produced also to aid comparison; not so much a "wall of silence" Dr Lucking, but a wall of information.

What these results showed was that, in addition to a large number of tests done during competitions, 133 out-of-competition tests were done at either short notice or no notice on British track and field athletes from April 1991 to the end of March 1992.

Almost everyone involved in the anti-doping movement world-wide is agreed that these out-of-competition tests are the best means we have of providing an effective deterrent for competitors who now know that they may be caught anywhere, at any time, within Britain or overseas, wherever they may be living or training. Within the last six months alone British athletes have been subject to out-of-competition tests in all parts of Britain and also in the USA, Australia and the Canary Islands.

This testing is co-ordinated on our behalf by the Sports Council's doping control unit which liaises with ourselves, the other sports councils in the UK, and various other international partners and agencies to ensure that our programme is comprehensive, effective and independent.

To avoid any accusations that the BAF may be tempted to protect or favour any individual athlete, the Sports Council, on our behalf, arranges for the selection of athletes to be tested and then arranges for the samples to be collected by its own specially-trained independent sampling officers. This partnership requires close co-operation, and I do not believe a week has gone by in the last year when there has not been communication between us.

BAF and the Sports Council are committed to the principle of out-of-competition testing and we are increasing our dependence on it; in the period 1990-1 (April-March) 65 out-of-competition tests were performed, in 1991-2 (April-March) there were 133, and in the last three months (to July 1), in an enhanced programme agreed with the British Olympic Association, 53 tests have been completed. There is, therefore, a well-established trend towards a greater use of out-of-competition testing.

Our federation, while not being complacent, is satisfied that its partnership with the Sports Council is having the desired effect, i.e., that of ridding our sport of the doping menace.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BEDFORD
(Honorary Secretary,
British Athletics Federation,
Edgbaston House,
3 Duchess Place,
Hagley Road, Edgbaston,
Birmingham.

August 6.

Olympic cheating

From Mr D. C. Fishleigh

Sir, Within the site of ancient Olympia, at the foot of the beautiful hill of Kronios and at the very entrance of the stadium, there is a row of pedestals. On these, according to the guide book, there used to stand the Zanes. These were bronze statues of Zeus which were paid for by fines imposed over the years on competitors detected cheating at the Games.

Perhaps the tradition could be reintroduced at the modern Games, and the statues, in ever growing numbers, taken around to line the approach to the stadium at each celebration.

Yours faithfully,
D. C. FISHLEIGH,
21 Linkfield Lane,
Redhill, Surrey.

August 5.

Sports letters, page 26

Gentle literature

From Miss Mary M. Darlington

Sir, My beautiful, leather-bound copy of *The History of Mr Polly*, by H. G. Wells, price 2s 6d (12½ pence), has finally worn out and cannot be replaced because it is out of print. The pleasant bookseller said that it is too gentle for today's A levels.

I wonder how long it will be before Dickens's books are too gentle — *David Copperfield*, for instance, and *Little Dorrit*?

My Penguin edition of *Mr Polly*, price one shilling (5 pence), is now receiving the same care as the antique crystal flowers which stand on that bookshelf.

Yours faithfully,
MARY M. DARLINGTON,
33 Glynn Way, Hawarden,
Denbighshire, Clwyd.

August 3.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

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oes?

WEEKEND TIMES

SATURDAY AUGUST 8 1992

A wild fling with the Highlands

Meredith Etherington-Smith describes the pleasures that await the tweedy set heading north for the Scottish season

NOT all smart summer holidays demand a suitcase full of factor 50, a Hermès wallet full of lire, a string bikini, the latest Gaultier sunglasses and Josephine Hart's new novel. This weekend, all over the Home Counties, those going on one of the smartest holidays of all will be cramming ancient rawhide luggage full of climbing boots, Viyella shirts, shooting stockings, estate tweed or loden knickerbockers, anti-midge cream, a handful of serious jewellery, and several venerable cashmere sweaters.

For the fact is that while some members of society make a dash for Chiantishire or Sardinia in August, there are those who think that abroad is utter hell, and that the Scottish season, which opens in four days' time on the Glorious Twelfth, the first day on which the hapless grouse may legally be shot, is the only way to pass most of August and a great deal of September too.

So up the Great North Road this weekend will pile Range Rovers full of southern society with its children and its dogs, silver hip flasks tucked into capacious pockets, heading for the hills, moors and lochs of the Highlands. The exceptions will be the Queen, who cruises on Britannia up the west coast before starting her annual break at Balmoral, and those who take that most romantic of journeys, the overnight sleeper from Euston to Inverness.

For the next two months, the purple-heathered hills of the Highlands will be alive to the merry sounds of the Purdey 12-bore aimed at coveys of grouse and, as darkness falls, to the equally merry sound of the war-cries of the Highland reellers as they tread and hunt in their voluminous ball-dresses or kilts, up and down their measures till long past dawn.

In huge house parties up and down the Highlands the great, the good and the beautiful will have gathered upon invitation only to spend the day furiously pursuing grouse or red deer, fishing, for salmon or trout, dashing back at tea time windburnt from the neck up, changing into evening dress, throwing a quick dram down and driving a hundred miles to a dance.

IF ABROAD is hell, the Scottish season is heaven still like travelling back to a grander, more pleasant past. A time when a duke was a proper duke, laird of 50,000 acres of completely unproductive grouse moor, not a theme-park entrepreneur. A time when one had to be invited by a friend, not pay a stranger. And that is what separates the Scottish season from any other holiday: you cannot pay to take part, you have to be invited by the resident Scots, a notoriously clannish and very grand bunch.

Scotland is the one place left where grand is still very grand. There are more than a quorum of dukes and marquesses, but other more arcane titles such as "of that ilk" and the Cock of the North (the Marquess of Huntly) have a peculiarly ancient charm. There are clan chieftains who are also dukes, such as the Duke of Argyll, there are lairds and their ladies and hirsute grand chaps simply called The Macab or The MacThomas.

The Scottish season, a brief two months spent out of time, begins with the Glorious Twelfth and the Northern Meeting, a prosaic name for a ball held twice a year in and around Inverness, capital of the Highlands, which is where everyone meets up for the first time in the season.

A word of warning here: your reading has been absolutely perfect, otherwise you won't be asked again. If your rendition of Hamilton House lacks finesse, attendance

PASSPORT TO FRANCE, PAGE 6

Live the high life at a superb French Relais & Châteaux hotel with 30 per cent off the price, courtesy of a unique Times offer

SCOTTISH FOOD AND DRINK, PAGE 7

Load up for the Glorious Twelfth with potted beef and grouse, a flask of single malt and a Scottish seaweed feast

SHOPPING IN EDINBURGH, PAGE 11

When you tire of grouse and heather, take in some urban style on the Royal Mile -- or see page 4 for a Scottish gardens tour



MARK GATOR

Dressed to kill: the order of the day is very ancient tweed or loden knickerbockers and a tweed shooting coat that does not match; the only sartorial excitement rests in the choice of shooting stockings

At The Wandsworth Reel Club (0962 771352), held at the Wandsworth Town Hall on the first Thursday every month from October to May, but not December, is an essential investment.

Perhaps the smartest ball of the lot is the Oban Ball, which takes place in the Gathering Hall at Oban, far up on the west coast, after the Argyllshire Gathering later this month. Anyone can take part in the Gathering, a loyal parade of clan chiefs and local landowners. But the Oban Ball is different. This is definitely a private party run by the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, neither of whom subscribes to the notion that press photographers are an essential thread in the rich tapestry of contemporary society.

By the first week in September, all social roads lead to the Isle of Skye and to bigger-busier house parties scattered in bothies, bed-and-breakfasts, and the few houses large enough to accommodate them across that lunar landscape. For it is time to gather for the Skye Ball.

Two nights, on September 2 and 3, are spent non-stop reeling in the Gathering Hall in Fortree, and the much-prized tickets can be obtained only by being invited by a subscriber to the ball.

These two evenings are ruled with a rod of iron by Ruairidh Hilleary, who is particularly strict on dress. He has been known to send girls home if their dresses were more than the obligatory maximum three inches above the floor. Low-cut cleavage is also frowned on (it could lead to embarrassing exposure during a particularly energetic reel).

Tartan sashes, pinned with a brooch, may be worn only if there is a direct clan association, and then only over the left or right shoulder, depending on your status (the eldest daughter of an important family, the wife of an army officer or a royal wear theirs over the right shoulder; everybody else over the left). No one ties their sash round their waist.

No sooner has the Highland sociate recovered from these exertions than it is time, if he or she is so inclined, to travel across the Highlands to Braemar for the annual Highland Games and a generous helping of royalty, clad in tartans and headscarves.

These are the most structured, not to say stage-managed, of all the Highland Games and attract a huge crowd, drawn by royalty rather than by the opportunity to see some really serious caber-tossing.

The Blairgowrie Highland Games, on the other hand, are the



Spot the ball: Lady Georgina Murray reeling at Blair Castle

real thing rather than a media event. They are held at Ardbrake Castle, home of Laurence Blair Oliphant who, with his large red beard and wild red hair, looks more like Queen Victoria's romantic idea of an ancient clan chieftain than is possible to imagine.

THESE games are more in the traditional "country clan" mode and are much more fun and less formal, really

only one stage up from the local agricultural show and games, of which there are plenty in the Highlands in the summer. These are full of little booths selling bright tartan corduroy trousers and sturdy green Barbour to local lairds and farmers interspersed with pens crammed full of sulky, woolly sheep and fringed Highland cattle.

The last great social event of the Scottish season is the Perth Ball, whose presiding deities are the Earl and Countess of Mansfield, their

son, Viscount Stormont, and their pretty daughter, Lady Georgina Murray. The ball used to be held at Perth City Hall but now takes place in Blair Castle, whose decorative theme is aggressive arrangements of vicious-looking spears, swords and claymores. Blair is the highland stronghold of the Duke of Atholl, whose private army of Atholl Highlanders, skirling cheerful tunes on their bagpipes, add to the general atmosphere of the evening.

But the *aison d'être*, the heart, of the Scottish season is the sporting house party. These take place in grand castles, such as Blair, or in wonderfully old-fashioned shooting lodges with all the home comforts of a Victorian orphanage.

Some of these lodges may be rented for the season, but most are privately owned. A word here about decoration. There isn't any. Well, there is, but "decorator" is not a word that springs to mind when trying to describe the Highland interior. Antlers, faded tartans,

chintzes almost obliterated by half a century of sporadic sunlight, huge sofas with arms broad enough to balance a large dram, spartan bedrooms which still have working washstands. Rider Haggard and A.E. Henty, a bottle of malt and a jug of spring water by the bed, are the norm. It is not smart to be smart in the Highlands.

A Highland sporting house party does not consist of six people intent on a month's wife-swapping and cocktail-partying. It is a large, sprawling, inchoate mass of parents, children, grandparents, friends and a great many dogs, sporting and otherwise. Such a house party entails the employment of a great deal of raw energy, for sport, not sex, is the order of the day, and it begins early.

Those whose idea of a solid breakfast is a bowl of muesli and a cup of black coffee have no place at the Highland breakfast table. Breakfast here is taken early and it is taken seriously, for it will have to sustain you on the hill until the distant prospect of lunch. So a proper old-fashioned Scottish breakfast is consumed as ballast by all members of the house party.

THIS may consist of a generous number of freshly-baked baps, herring fried in oatmeal, haddock, ham and egg and local sausage, not to mention towering piles of toast and home-made marmalade.

Promptly at 9am it is time to rug up for the hill. Rugging up entails layer upon layer of very old tweeds and sweaters. The order of the day is carefully darned and very ancient tweed or loden knickerbockers, worn with a tweed shooting coat that doesn't match; green or heathery sweaters, also darned; and a Barbour that has seen far, far better days. The only sartorial excitement rests in the choice of shooting stockings, which may have quite fancy decorative tops (the best I have ever seen had tops knitted with crenellations like a castle — indeed, they were worn by someone who actually lived in one).

A leather or canvas cartridge bag whose dilapidation, featuring dried bloodstains and scored by heather, bears mute witness to many similar sporting excursions, is the only permitted accessory, apart from a gun.

There are no designer labels on the hill, only the subtle message of ancient estate tweeds (specially designed for, and only worn by, the owners of estates, their workers, and sometimes one or two very close friends). These are made up into sturdy sporting clothes by such

specialists in the genre as Campbell of Beauly.

Sunably clad, the Highland sportsman or woman collects his or her "piece" from the jolly Sloaney girls up from SW3 who work in the shooting lodge kitchen for the season during the day, and husband-hunt at night. A "piece" is lunch, as simple as a bap or two stuffed with heavy-duty ingredients, for energy burns up fiercely struggling through the heather. Or the jolly Sloaneys will have packed a huge and complicated series of fitted picnic baskets with cold grouse sandwiches, ham, potato salad, cold sausages and loads of beer, whisky and wine.

Ladies are corralled in the backs of Land or Range Rovers, and the party sets out for the grouse butts high on the moors. Those going stalking set out a lot earlier, singly or in pairs with their stalker, followed by a pony-boy and his pony (to bring the carcass down).

The house party reconvenes at

lodge or castle for a serious tea; the Sloaneys will have been baking all day. Then it is time for the hot bath, the curling tongs and the change into ballgown, black tie or that most glamorous of male dress, the kilt, to reel until after dawn.

As September draws to a close, so does the Scottish season, winding down gently with a visit to the Western Meeting and Ayr Gold Cup in the Lowlands, or more suddenly by taking the overnight express from Inverness to London.

One thing is sure: those who do the Scottish season will have had more fun, and feel healthier, than a thousand sunburnt denizens of Chiantishire. For there is a cheerful and uncomplicated camaraderie in the Highlands, a sense of old-fashioned, home-made fun about the Scottish season that is a rare and precious commodity these days. It is very hard to beat.

Lord and Lady Mansfield at home at Sccone Palace, page 10

HOLOCAUST 1992

Oh God!
It's happening again!



Protest against Serb "ethnic cleansing" in Bosnia-Herzegovina

join the RALLY
TRAFAJALAR SQUARE
SAT 8 AUGUST 1992 - 2pm

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA ACTION CAMPAIGN
tel 081 968 1935

WHAT'S ON

THEATRE

LONDON
ABSENT FRIENDS: Ayckbourn's bleak yet comic case-study of modern marriage subtle, shrewd and derly acted (Gary Bond, Susie Blake, Cherie Melton). Lyric Hammersmith, King Street, W6 081-741 2311. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm.

THE DYBBUIK: Katie Mitchell's thrillingly convincing Hassidic community where the supernatural presences in all sides. Joanne Pearce superb as the girl possessed. The Pit, Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Tonight, Tues, 7.15pm; mat today, 2pm.



Penny Downie: a new face in Death and the Maiden
DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: Penny Downie, Danny Webb and Hugh Ross take over in Ariel Dorfman's scorching psychological drama on the longing for revenge.

Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

HUSH: Max Stafford-Clark directs a new play by April De Angelis, author of the excellent *Ironmoxie*. Four characters try to pick up their lives after a girl vanishes in strange circumstances. Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1745). Previews tonight, 8pm; opens Mon, 8pm; then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Sat (after Aug 15), 4pm.

MOTHER TONGUE: Uneven but amusing vehicle for Prunella Scales as a manipulative mother in Alan Frank's new play, directed by Richard Cottell.

Wynyard's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 5pm, Sat, 5pm.

PHILADELPHIA, HERE I COME! Brian Friel's affectionate comedy of an Irish emigrant and his caring alter ego. A revival to be cherished.

Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 5pm, Sat, 5pm.

SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION: John Guare's fine play on human interdependence transfers to the West End. Stockard Channing recreates her role as the rich New Yorker transfigured by a black con artist.

Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (071-867 1045). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm and Sat, 4pm.

STREET OF CROCODILES: Théâtre de Complicité create a dramatic equivalent for the phantasmagoric stories of Bruno Schulz, Galician writer shot in 1942.

National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Previews tonight, Mon-Wed, 7.30pm; opens Thurs, 7pm; then in repertoire.

THE TAKING OF LIBERTY:

Third in "The Woman in the Moon" season. Women's experience in the French Revolution, offering parallels with modern Yugoslavia. Epic play with large cast, by Cheryl Robson.

Man in the Moon, 302 King's Road, London SW1 (071-351 2876). Preview, Tues, 8.30pm; opens Wed, 7.30pm; then in repertoire.

A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE:

Philip Ponson's triumphant RSC production. John Carlisle as a callous aristocrat in Wilde's social melodrama laced with wit.

Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm; then today, 2pm.

REGIONAL

CHICHESTER: Good old Oliver Goldsmith, never less a theatre down and does wonders for the box-office. This production of *Stoops To Conquer* stars Ian Glen, Jean Boht and Denis Quale.

Festival Theatre (0243 781312). Preview tonight, Mon, Tues, 7.30pm; opens Wed, 7pm.

GLASSGOW: Tron Theatre Company's exhilarating Scottish version of Michel Tremblay's French-Canadian play *The Guid Sisters* about 15 women and a million green stamps.

Tron, 63 Trongate (041-552 4267). Wed, Thurs, 7.30pm; then on tour.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON:

Star Russell Beale in Sam Mendes' illuminating staging of Richard III, later to become the RSC's Regional Tour production.

The Other Place, (0799 295623). Previews tonight, Mon, 7.30pm; opens Tues, 7pm.

FILM

BATMAN RETURNS (12): Quirky but ho-hum sequel, best when the spotlight falls on Michelle Pfeiffer's electrifying Catwoman. Michael Keaton, Danny DeVito; director, Tim Burton. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Empire (071-497 5999) MGM Baker Street (071-935 7972) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2638) MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6705) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

DANCE

ROYAL BALLET: The Covent Garden season ends today with two performances of Kenneth MacMillan's full-blooded treatment of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

At this afternoon's performance the Kirov ballerina Alina Asfiaukarova and the Hungarian Zoltan Solymosi portray the doomed lovers, while tonight the team of Viviana Durante and Inek Mulhamedov takes centre stage. Tonight's performance also features the final performances of Guy Niblett (as Tybalt) and Jeremy Shefford (as Paris). Both dancers are leaving the Royal Ballet. Niblett after 13 years at Covent Garden.

Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066), today, 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

ROMEO AND JULIET: English National Ballet is offering the rare chance to see Ashton's cooler, more lyrical version of the Bard's tragedy. A week of performances also presents an opportunity to see some fine dancers in the leading roles; watch out particularly for Trinidad Seviliano and Patrick Arnold (Tues, next Sat) and Sophie Jewkes and Tim Almara (Wed eve, Fri).

Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, next Sat, 2.30pm.

SHAKESPEARE IN SHADY PLACES: The last Rainforest (01) Bland, unimaginative cartoon feature with an impeccably green message. Director, Bill Kroger.

MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Odeon

KENSINGTON (0426 914666)

Odeon West End (0426 915757) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

THE DISCREET CHARM OF THE BOURGEOISIE

(15): Six well-heeled friends in search of an uninterrupted meal. Buñuel's marvellously amusing 1972 satire, revised with six other films by the master of screen surrealism.

Fernando Rey, Stéphane Audran, Barbiac (071-638 8891).

MASALA

(18): Dishevelled, sensual family set in Toronto's Indian community. With Saeed Jaffrey delightfully in three roles; writer-director, Shrinivas Krishna. Metro (071-437 0757).

MY COUSIN VERNY

(15): Adventures of a novice lawyer defending a murder charge down South. Uncertain comic vehicle for Pesci; bright support from Marisa Tomei, Fred Gwynne, Director, Jonathan Lynn.

MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Odeon Kensington (0426 914666) West End (0426 915747) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

NIGHT ON EARTH

(15): Five tragicomic encounters in five night-time taxis. Uneven but amiable Jim Jarmusch compendium. Roberto Benigni, Gene Rowlands, Beatrice Dalle.

Camden Plaza (071-485 2443) Garia (071-727 4043) Lumière (071-936 0691) MGM Falmouth Road (071-370 2636).

PETER PAN

(U): Disney's 1952 cartoon version of J.M. Barrie; often bland, but Captain Hook makes a splendid villain.

MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) West End (0426 915747) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

THE PLAYER

(15): Dazzling satire on Hollywood, directed by Robert Altman from Michael Tolkin's novel.

MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527) MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-636 6279/79 7025) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) Mezzanine (0426 915683) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366) Renoir (071-837 8402) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

ROYAL BALLET

Up until the mid-19th century the role in Britain generally

required an excuse, however transparent, in the shape of a subject from classical myth or a Biblical story like Susannah and the Elders. But from then on the nude in painting gradually

became accepted in its own right, until today when it can be the major preoccupation of a painter like Lucian Freud without raised eyebrows.

This new display at the Tate, the second in the *Cross-currents* series, charts the history of this change from the gallery's own collection.

Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (071-821 1313). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm, Sun, 2.50pm and on Monday until Dec 27.

JOHN HEARTFIELD

Born Helmut Herzfeld, John Heartfield anglicised his name in the middle of the first world war, as a protest against German

xenophobia. His satirical photomontages chronicled the rise of

Nazism, and inevitably forced him into exile; they have lost none of

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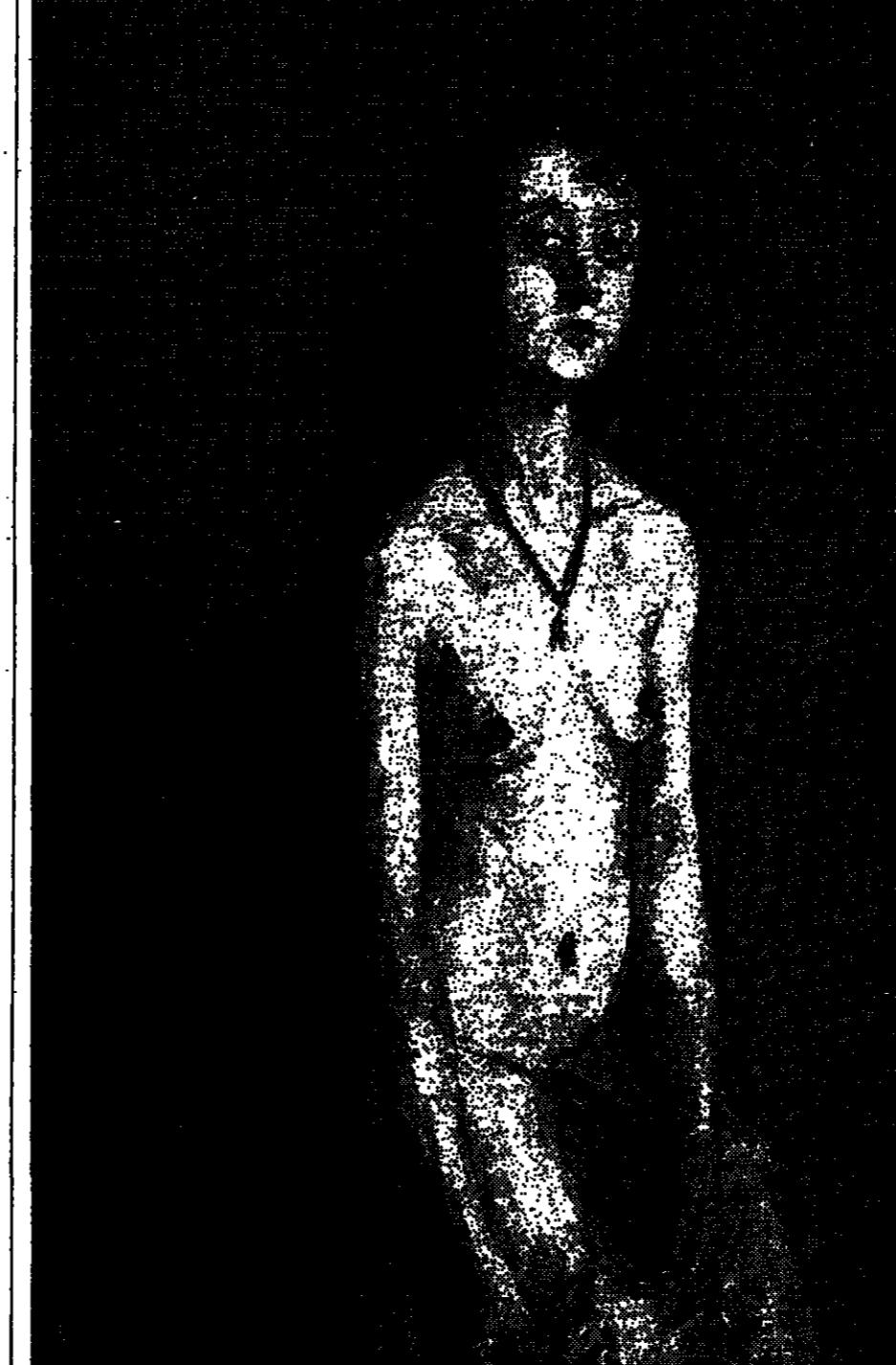
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No excuse: Gwen John's *Nude Girl* part of "The Painted Nude" show at the Tate

EXHIBITIONS

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THE PAINTED NUDE

Fifty ways to end it all

Lynne Truss ponders sudden death by coach trip and other disasters as a way to boost *Eldorado*'s flagging ratings

YEARS ago, on *Dallas*, a character called Pam had a very important shower. It was a shower that became a landmark in the history of soap opera. When she stepped into it, all sorts of no-hope story lines were wriggling wildly in the ether, incapable of resolution. But when she stepped out she discovered that a strange and wonderful time-loop had occurred, solving all the writers' problems at a single stroke. Because nothing from the last series of *Dallas* had really happened at all! If had all been a terrible dream - dreamt by Pam!

One imagines that down on the Costa Eldorado, people are in and out of showers constantly these days, just on the off chance that it could happen twice. Producers are running out of wash-mits. There is a *Bad种子* crisis. The news that

Fizz, the brave little child-bride, is

heading for the Sister George

treatment may be big news in the

tabloids, but it doesn't go very far in

solving the underlying problem,

which is that ex-pat life is intrinsically

stultifying in its range of dramatic options. Sacking Fizz is

not so much rearranging the

furniture on the Titanic as rubbing

a speck of dust off a port hole.

On the other hand, putting half the dramatis personae on a coach-trip excursion and driving them off a cliff (a wicked rumour I heard this week) might encourage a lot of

people to turn in. The usual staple of everyday *Eldorado* life is

meagre fare at the best of times, but

compared with the entire cast

playing Russian roulette with cer-

tain death, it looks like nothing.

"Coming on the coach-trip,

Snowy?" "Yes," yell the audience.

"Oh, I don't think so," says Snowy,

to loud groans of universal dismay.

Which characters will receive the

black-edged invitations? The un-

certainity would do wonders for the

ratings. Imagine the difference

between watching a scene of assort-

ed Euro-youngsters playing awk-

ward volleyball on the beach (dialogue: "Mwah croc ja tennis club?" "Betris fwa mumble. Fizz

and Bunny" "Ha, ha ha") and the

same scene played *not with a*

volleyball. "Hey, kids, play with this," says a mysterious stranger

from London, lobbing a big, black

ball-shaped object into their midst.

"Catch, Arnaud!" "Yours, Fizz"

they shout, and then you suddenly

notice that the ball has a sparkler

sticking out of it, and the word

"BOMB" is written on the side.

Bizarre death, and its detection,

has been rather a feature of

television this week, what with Alex

Cox's fantastic and witty film

Death and the Compass (BBC2)

based closely on the Jorge Luis

Borges story from *Labyrinths* -

and the continuing abysmal adven-

tures of Friday night's *Virtual*

Murder (BBC1). Borges's detective

Lönnrot is a charismatic policeman

in a bright blue suit who turns up at

the scene of a meaningless murder

in a South American city and imme-

diately detects a deep, and

Should *Eldorado* suffer the

black-edged invitation?

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sticking out of it, and the word

"BOMB" is written on the side.

Should *Eldorado* suffer the

black-edged invitation?

The uncertainty would do won-

ders for the ratings. Imagine the dif-

ference between watching a scene of assort-

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ward volleyball on the beach (dialogue: "Mwah croc ja tennis club?" "Betris fwa mumble. Fizz

and Bunny" "Ha, ha ha") and the

same scene played *not with a*

volleyball. "Hey, kids, play with this," says a mysterious stranger

from London, lobbing a big, black

ball-shaped object into their midst.

"Catch, Arnaud!" "Yours, Fizz"

they shout, and then you suddenly

notice that the ball has a sparkler

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Yee ha! It's round-up time in the not-so-OK corral

It is eleven o'clock at night. I have just leant out of the bedroom window and I cannot believe my ears. This was supposed to be the night of broken sleep, interrupted by the fog-horn moo of a grieving calf. But there is no distress at all, just silence. The heifer calf from whom I have today removed its mother is taking it on the chin.

It could be that it is glad to see the back of its mums; everyone else on the farm is. From the earliest of our farming days this particular cow has been trouble. Whenever an escape plan was being hatched, she would be the principal architect; if the herd was due to be rounded up, she would be the one to plant obstinate ideas in the heads of the rest. Alas, the older she got, the more cussed she became, and so the last of our three original cows has now gone. She was the bony one, whose nervous wide eyes scanned

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

the horizon like radar dishes. The merest hint of an approach from any of us had her poised like a coiled spring. Every farmer who has seen her has been of the same opinion, and has reminded me that "the butcher is the breeder's best friend". Batty blood-lines should not be perpetuated.

It is a sad turn in my cattle-owning career, but I must admit that I am partly to blame for an eagerly anticipated love affair never having taken off. Much as I enjoy the sight of their vivid red hulks set against the distant meadows and their contemplative chewing of cud, I do not feel I know any more about cattle than when I first started keeping them two years ago. The trouble is that for large periods of

the year a small herd can easily be put to the back of one's mind. I walk the meadows regularly in the summer, but by and large they are self-tending. When they are wintered in the yards, so much time is taken up with the routine of feeding that little is left for anything else, like talking to them.

But this is all going to have to change, for despite cruel losses I intend to persevere. I took a short course in cattle-handling recently and, although packed with good advice, when it came to the practical it lacked the drama of real life. The first lesson was catching and haltering — exactly the skills I wanted to learn. Except that the demonstration herd belonged to the agricultural college. These coll-

age cows were haltered and caught on an hourly basis by student after student, so the whole exercise was about as difficult as getting a halter on a seaside donkey. They gave us a leaflet to take away called *Cattle Handling by Rope*. It gloomily commences with the instructions for making a lasso. As it is my intention to create a traditional farm and not re-enact an episode of *Wagon Train*, I have set the

booklet to one side for the moment. I think I shall learn from experts directly. My inadequacy at stock-handling was finally brought home to me when the bony cow had to be loaded into the trailer bound for the butcher. He runs a collection service and his faithful driver, Tom, is to animals and ramps what Maradona was to football and goals. But it only works if you do exactly as he says, and if he does not think you are up to it he tells you to do nothing. At least he tells me to do nothing.

He backed his trailer to the gate, took another gate off its hinges to make a race down which the cow could be driven, and then proceeded to round up the cow, its calf and a couple of bullocks which were in the same yard. He knew that once again there was no way she would return to captivity. He grabbed both of the slanted gates and with a quick movement of those two doors he performed a bounding trick that would have done justice to the doorman at the Ritz ejecting a vagrant. And then he was gone, with the right cow, leaving me dazed. It was a spectacular performance made possible by years of bitter experience, and one to which I dare not even aspire.

In fact, so devastating was it that I suspect that is what is keeping the weaned calf quiet. Like me, she is dumbstruck.



Gardens to visit

□ Aberdeen: Pitmedden, elaborate formal panache with fine wall-trained fruit herb garden, woodland walks through estate. 1m W of Pitmedden village on A90, child £1.10, child free (hours also £2.20, child £1.10). Open daily until end Sept., 10am-6pm. Visitors welcome to Scotland's Garden Scheme garden party, tomorrow 2-5pm.

□ Roxburghshire: Abbotsford house and garden built and laid out by Sir Walter Scott. Herbaceous borders and annuals, yew hedges, fine views of the river Tweed. 3m from Melrose on A6091, turn SW on to B6360. Garden open: £1.10, child free (hours also £2.20, child £1.10). Daily until end October. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Tomorrow 2-5pm for Scotland's Garden Scheme.

□ Somerset: Tintinhull, 20th-century formal garden surrounding 17th-century house with unusual herbaceous plants and climbers, kitchen garden. 5m NW of Yeovil, 1m S of A303 on outskirts of Tintinhull. £2.80. April 1-Sept 30, Wed, Thur, Sat and BH Mon, 2-6pm.

Exotic borders in the glens

Francesca Greenoak plans a guided tour of Scotland

The Scottish landscape of mountains, historic glens, forests and lochs draws admirers from all over Europe, but on the basis of my own explorations, I strongly advise against embarking on a journey north of the border without our two vital guidebooks, from Scotland's Gardens Scheme and The National Trust for Scotland.

Start by investigating the gardens of the northeast, casting about in the neighbourhood of Aberdeen, where you will find strange, hybrid-looking castles, with the air of a French chateau but solidly Scottish, with lawns and parkland rather than parterres at the foot of their towers. At Fyvie Castle, 25 miles northwest of Aberdeen, park and woodland surround an attractive lake, and new gardens for acid-loving species are being made and planted.

Drum Castle (ten miles west

GARDENING

of Aberdeen, near Peterculter) has a new rose garden of historic cultivars sheltered within its walled garden. Further west, near Banchory, is Crathes Castle, famous for the beauty of its great yews and its superb, compartmented walled garden. Pitmedden has lost its original house, but its elaborate formal gardens and exquisite fruit walls are well worth a visit.

Spread along a peninsula beside Loch Ewe, within its own woodland, is Inverewe, the best known of the sheltered semi-exotic gardens of the west coast: a succession of linked gardens and pools with a wide range of tender shrubs, trees and flowering plants. Southwards down the coast is Ardhuine, a new Trust garden of woods and exotics which is completely magical. Strike out by ferry to Arran

and there is Brodick Castle, with its fine rhododendron collection and wooded garden. Ribbon borders, bright with annuals, have been restored to the recreated Victorian walled garden. Below spread the most beautiful pool and stream gardens, and sloping wooded zigzags with exotic trees and flowers, and a remarkable restored summer house with a patterned fir-cone décor.

From the high volcanic cliff-top commanded by Culzean Castle you look out across the Firth of Clyde to Arran. Much of the restoration of the fabric has been completed, and there are many interesting buildings to explore, as well as a walled garden with colourful borders. 18th-century terraces with tender plants and a huge, beautiful park.

Culzean is less than an hour's drive from Glasgow, but Glaswegians have an exciting, small-scale Trust prop-

erty at Greenbank, only six miles south of the city centre. This garden is directed towards everyday gardeners, especially owners of small gardens. Jim May, the head gardener, has made it his mission to show how wide a variety of plants can be grown

in the region. Vivid annuals are part of the summer display, and he has also built up an enviable assembly of hardy perennials and flowering shrubs. There are hardy geraniums and ferns, perhaps more surprisingly camassias, and some less common clematis including several of the beautiful and very hardy macro-petals with their dainty, nodding flowers, all plants well worthy of consideration in cooler gardens all over Britain.

● Details of gardens and opening times can be found in Guide to Properties 1992 (£1 plus 25p P&P)



Northern delights: beauty of the gardens at newly restored Culzean Castle, less than an hour's drive from Glasgow



Purity: the Madonna lilies

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Crossing the line in the wrong way

OPERA

La Bohème
Theatre Royal, Bath

WHEN applied to opera, "international" can be one of the most meaningless and irritating of terms. Quite what it is intended to imply in the case of Bath City Opera, which proclaims itself "Britain's newest international opera company", it is hard to say on the evidence of the *Bohème* given six performances in five days (principals double-cast) at the Theatre Royal this week; it looks very much like "this is what we call 'international opera in America'" — i.e. a star name or two to top the bill, some reach-me-down casting elsewhere, a complaisant conductor, conventional production and as little rehearsal as can be got away with.

At Tuesday's opening the star name was Renée Fleming, possessor of one of the most luscious soprano voices to come out of America in recent years and a stunning Fiordiligi at Glyndebourne earlier in the summer. Beautifully though she sang Mimi — also droopy and self-indulgently — the character eluded her. She was merely an American soprano being winsomely cute in Act I, winsomely sad in Act IV, and the very picture of rude health in Act III, with prima-donna maquillage intact and much byplay with a white handkerchief — perhaps this is what is meant by "international". Klaus Dahlen, the conductor, followed her dutifully.

The American tenor Marcus Haddock made his British debut as Rodolfo. He has a fine presence and healthy vocal equipment, but there is more to Rodolfo than being the notes out at a steady forte.

RODNEY MILNES

One for women

THEATRE

She Ventures and He Wins
Man-in-the-Moon, Chelsea

THE small pub theatre on King's Road at World's End was packed: an unusual occurrence. Evidently memories of the unexpected success of last year's *False Count* are still fresh. The latest offering in this season of work by women writers comes from the same Restoration stable. The author is the cryptically named Adrienne, of whom history tells us little and the theatre management less, though she was evidently a playwright of gusto and vitality.

Vivienne Cornell's direction ensures an evening of warm-hearted cheerfulness. Patently the work of a female pen, the play makes the women the instigators of the plot, the men mere sidekicks or victims. Typically, we meet Charlotte disguised in male garb "to ramble the town" in search of a man she can take "for better or for worse" amidst the throng of fops, coxcombs and fortune hunters. Her confidante Julianne scrambles into breeches to join her.

The girls are direct ancestors of Jane Austen's heroines: high spirited, good natured, emotional susceptibility tempered equally by scepticism and ever-fresh optimism. This play is less richly complex than *The False Count*; the subplots are only tenuously interconnected, running on parallel lines rather than forming a whole. But robust humour and straightforward story-telling carry the day.

Men have a fairly rotten time of it. The hero is tricked, deceived, even thrown into jail

MARTIN HOYLE

Fools wanted, to rush into West End

Investing in new musicals, once thought to be a safe bet, seems temporarily to have lost its appeal, Simon Tait reports

on *Me and My Girl* eight years ago, one of the great against-the-odds successes of the 1980s which made a star of Robert Lindsay. *Radio Times* bears the familiar hallmarks of West End success: nostalgia, familiar tunes and a sense of fun. The show has had five productions running simultaneously, went out of business.

According to research by Carolyn Gardner of City University, for the Society of West End Theatre, the audiences are back. Attendances overall are up five per cent over last year, and only two per cent down on the record year of 1990.

The problem for investors is that audiences are not paying top prices for their tickets any more, even if they are filling the best seats. By some estimates as many as half the shows are having to offer large discounts, too large to give a reasonable return for backers.

Other new musicals are still going ahead, however. *Valentine's Day*, adapted by Benny Green and David William from Shaw's *You Never Can Tell*. The other show is *Radio Times*, Alex Armitage's working of Robin Miller's script about a 1940s radio variety show, using Tony Slattery in the lead and the songs of Noel Gay such as "Run, Rabbit, Run". Armitage and his father were responsible for putting

Back doing what he loves most

Max Stafford-Clark, the outgoing artistic director of the Royal Court Theatre, is directing plays again, he tells Matt Wolf

Almost a year ago, Max Stafford-Clark, artistic director of the Royal Court Theatre, found himself besieged, and not for the first time. Having come under attack previously, both for his choice of plays (including Jim Allen's ill-fated *Perdition*) and for what some saw as an overzealous commitment to his Sloane Square perch, he was once again being cast as the "Directorial Monarch" who refused, after 13 years, to abdicate the throne. Ten months later, the dust has settled: Stephen Daldry is well in place as artistic director-designate, and Stafford-Clark is back doing what he loves most: directing a new play, *April de Angelis's Hush*.

What, then, of last year's events, whose repercussions continued to be felt? Just last month, Stafford-Clark won his first libel suit, taking to court the magazine *GQ* for publishing comments by Matthew Evans, chairman of Faber & Faber and former chairman of the Royal Court's governing board. And while Stafford-Clark, 51, is expected to become Daldry's deputy when the latter inherits the top job in October 1993, the terms of Daldry's appointment

are such that he can dispense with Stafford-Clark if he so chooses.

Not that Stafford-Clark himself feels particularly controversial, explaining that he has become a focus for debate largely by default: "The fact is that journalists want controversy, and most people in the British theatre are so uncontroversial. Since Steven Berkoff has become a *Guardian* columnist, there is an absence of controversial figures. If I'm controversial, it's just because everyone else is such a wet lettuce."

Looking back on last year's attacks, Stafford-Clark feels dismay most of all. "I think I was surprised to find the first articles in places like the Express, which has not really been a follower of the Royal Court," he explains. "I'm not suspecting a right-wing conspiracy, but if you believe that the Left has nearly been demolished and here is one theatre still

clinging to old-fashioned values, it's not totally unjustified to do so."

On some level, though, the debate clearly engages him not least because it reassess the importance of the theatre in a period of waning interest.

"I think it's quite right that it's a matter of public debate who runs a theatre so I don't resent that at all."

The debate polarised people, and a reasonable school of thought did feel it was time for a change. I offered not to apply, to withdraw my candidacy if it would be embarrassing but I did also very strongly feel that I could well be the best candidate."

What Stafford-Clark hopes most to avoid is any scenario that defines him as the kind of freelance director he has rarely been in a career marked by co-founding the Joint Stock company and long associations with the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh and then the Court. "I have to earn a living so I shan't shy away from it altogether, but I don't think it would help me grow as an artist. I have to create something, whether still at the Court or within an existing institution, or founding another independent company that enables me to do work of the calibre of Joint Stock."

"I don't think the talent to be a jobbing director, that ability to bring about the best pragmatically out of every situation you're in, is given to everyone, and I'm not sure I have it.

Some people do it extremely well. Sam Mendes has an extraordinary talent for being able to find himself wherever he is."

The question remains whether Stafford-Clark has not forged sufficient ties with writers such as Caryl Churchill and Timberlake Wertenbaker that those affiliations could continue beyond the Court to other subsidised venues or even the commercial sector.

The director acknowledges that possibility, but insists upon the primacy of place, having learned his lesson on Broadway and elsewhere that in the theatre the environment is all.

"When you have a vehicle like Joint Stock or the Court, it actually serves



Stafford-Clark: "I hope there will still be new plays I can direct"

your work; it creates a standard for theatricality" of Churchill's *Serious Money* as it moved from the Court to the West End to Broadway. Diminishing audiences, too, since the Broadway run collapsed after a few weeks.

"*Serious Money* sat very unfortu-

nately there simply as a manner of size," Stafford-Clark reflects, using a second Churchill play to further his point. "In *Top Girls*, the overlapping dialogue worked in a 500-seat theatre like the Court. If it were done in the Lyttelton it would be very hard for anyone to hear anything; you'd actually just get a blur of voice." In context, then, it's not surprising that Stafford-Clark turned down an offer to revive a contemporary play at the Lyttelton next year, with the result that Stephen Daldry is now preparing his National debut, while Stafford-Clark has yet to work there.

Stafford-Clark got a taste of Britain's other major subsidised theatre company this spring when he directed Richard Brorne's 1642 play *A Jovial Crew* for the Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford's Swan Theatre. The experience, he says, was good, not least for the cushioning that a large company allows: "I enjoyed doing the play partly because I had no responsibility for it. With *Hush*, there are no stars, the writer is unknown, the advance is poor, and unless the notices are good, it will be cumulatively expensive. At the RSC I didn't have to worry about the advance or even, beyond a certain extent, the budget."

Back in Sloane Square, Stafford-Clark finds cause for concern in the loss of what might be termed the modest success. Since 1991, he points out, all the Court's main stage offerings have played to either more than 80 per cent (*Death and the Maiden* and *Six Degrees of Separation* were both sellouts) or less than 35 per cent (*Pygmy in the Ruins, All Things Nice*). He calls the trend "fascinating but ominous: the middle ground is beginning to disappear completely. Four years ago, Clare McIntryre's *My Hears a Suitcase* played to a very creditable 65 per cent that was possible then."

Now new plays by John Byrne and David Mamet are scheduled, and Stafford-Clark hopes to return to the classics, directing Tom Wilkinson as King Lear. "I hope there will still be new plays I can direct, and writers I can suggest to commission. For me to say I will do my best, despite the opposition, to preserve those values and pass them on is not something I regret at all."

Shortlist that's long on quality

RECORDS: ROCK

If anything, the judging panel of the first Mercury Music Prize has done too good a job in selecting the shortlist of ten British and Irish albums, released in the last year, from which the winner will be chosen. The Mercury award, which is designed to honour musical excellence irrespective of commercial or "political" considerations, has yet to gain recognition beyond the confines of the music industry. One way of ensuring publicity would be to create an old-fashioned controversy, for instance by passing over the obvious candidates in favour of the outlandishly hip or outre.

However, the judges have produced a selection that is both varied and eminently sensible, given the obvious

limitations of the endeavour. To complement the competition, the organisers have assembled a cut-price compilation — The 1992 Mercury Music Prize Sampler, retailing at about £3 (vinyl and tape) or £4 (compact disc) — which features one track from each of the ten albums on the shortlist.

The sampler provides an ideal basis for further investigation of artists who, in some cases, would be unlikely to achieve recognition through conventional channels. Thus, alongside "One" from U2's acclaimed *Achtung Baby* and "How Could I Fall" from Simply Red's *Red's Stars* (the biggest selling album in Britain not only of last year but, so far, of this year too) there is the title

track of Bheki Mseleku's album *Celebration*.

Mseleku, a gifted South African pianist and saxophonist who has been resident in London since 1985, recorded the album (his solo debut) in just two days. Its total sales before the Mercury list was announced were in the region of 2,000 copies. But, as the haunting title track suggests, *Celebration* is the kind of jazz album that merits much wider exposure.

There is not a trace of metal country or folk on the album, and the inclusion of John Tavener's *The Protecting Veil* (Part 8) provides only token representation for classical music. While admiring the ambitious scope of the compe-

tition, one wonders how Tavener's music can be compared with The Jesus & Mary Chain's *Honey's Dead* (represented by "Far Gone and Out") or Primal Scream's *Screamadelica* (from which "Movin' On Up" is selected).

But as a vehicle for introducing the witty jazz-noir of Barry Adamson ("Split"), the funky soul of the Young Disciples ("Apparently Nothin'") and the indie-dance blast of Saint Etienne ("Nothing Can Stop Us") to an audience that has become fragmented and suspicious of so-called "expert" opinion, the competition and this sampler could hardly be bettered.

DAVID SINCLAIR



Simply Red's Mick Hucknall has biggest selling album

Sensual blended with spiritual

CLASSICAL

Of all genres of music, the one best suited to the recorded medium must surely be Renaissance polyphony. With this at once sensual, serene and spiritual music it is possible to shut one's eyes and re-create for oneself an ambience that no longer exists in the world.

The intense spirituality needed to achieve such a condition is communicated primarily in the Hilliard Ensemble's disc of music by Pierre de la Rue (EMI CDC 7 54082 2). He is a composer whose art is just as sumptuously expressive as that of Josquin, too late for half a dozen shows which closed. One producer, Mark Furness, who had five productions running simultaneously, went out of business.

According to research by Caroline Gardner of City University, for the Society of West End Theatre, the audiences are back. Attendances overall are up five per cent over last year, and only two per cent down on the record year of 1990.

The problem for investors is that audiences are not paying top prices for their tickets any more, even if they are filling the best seats. By some estimates as many as half the shows are having to offer large discounts, too large to give a reasonable return for backers.

Other new musicals are still going ahead, however. *Valentine's Day*, adapted by Benny Green and David William from Shaw's *You Never Can Tell*, is scheduled to open at the Globe on September 17. *Which Witch*, billed as a Scandinavian "operamusical", is to open on October 22 at the Piccadilly, and the musical version of *Kiss of the Spider Woman* is set for an October 20 opening at the Shaftesbury Theatre.

polytextual "Vexilla regis/Passio Domini" and the marvellous motet-chanson "Plorer, gemier/Requiem" have just as much impact as more extended pieces such as the imposing "Gaude virgo", the funeral "Deliciae juvenitatis" or the poetic lament of "Considera Israel". The blend is exquisite, the refined expressivity well nigh perfect.

From the low-key image of the Hilliard Ensemble to the aggressively marketed *Judian*, Lloyd Webber is a long way, but those suspicious of the cellist's family name should remember that he has uncrossed some worthy neglected repertoire over the years. This disc (Phillips 434 106-2) gives us Miskowski's 1944 Cello Concerto, which turns out to be a double-sided coin.

The slow first movement is lyrical and nostalgic, if naive and conservative, and it is crafted with discipline. The second (and last) movement, however, meanders somewhat, as though Miskowski were merely serving his time.

In every piece the Hilliard show their knack of finding the right pace, the right stance. Shorter gems such as the

still, Lloyd Webber gives a solid account, while the London Symphony Orchestra lends crisp, vividly coloured support under Maxim Shostakovich's direction.

They are equally good in Tchaikovsky's *Rococo Variations*, which Lloyd Webber usesfully plays in its original version, without the modifications by its first soloist, Wilhelm Fitzenhagen, which we usually hear. In this guise it seems much better balanced, and Lloyd Webber approaches with a refined spirit, stressing its Classical roots. The same composer's broad, lovely D minor *Nocturne* and Shostakovich's *Adagio* from his ballet *The Limp Stream* complete a pleasing disc which does, however, even the soloist balanced to far forward.

Sumptuous and lovely though it is, Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé* can sound too episodic to make a wholly satisfying concert hall piece. In Simon Rattle's recording (EMI CDC 7 54303 2) with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, however,

one experiences no such qualms. It feels like the organic structure it is, helped not least by a rich yet clear blend and by some particularly smooth brass playing. No gesture is mere colouristic whimsy, though Rattle cooks up an appropriately magical and exotic background.

An enormously wide dynamic range might prove a problem with the neighbours, but the recording, made at Warwick University, has plenty of warmth. The ubiquitous *Bolero* is included as make-weight, as if it were needed.

STEPHEN PETTITT

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Edinburgh: elitism made popular

It is as if running the festival is the only job Brian McMaster ever really wanted — this is the first festival director actually to take up permanent residence in Edinburgh. He takes the unfashionable but simple view that great work, properly presented, should also be popular. What he wants is to share this marvellous stuff with as many people as possible... ■

Edinburgh Festival special, including an interview with the new director, in *The Sunday Times Review* tomorrow

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or houses, mills or important residences of prestige which have been converted into very comfortable hotels or elegant restaurants.

Beyond that of quality, the philosophy now, as then, is based on the famous five "Cs"

of the association standing for Character, Courtesy, Calm, Charm and Cuisine. Almost 40 years later the chain is

represented in 40 nations. Of the 158 establishments in France, 42 non-seasonal hotels have been selected to offer *Times* readers this unique French experience.

From a gastronomic experience in Alsace to a late season break on the Côte d'Azur, from the golf courses of Brittany to the culture and beauty of the Loire Valley, Relais & Châ-

teaux offer hospitality at its very best. Most Relais & Châteaux hotels are to be found in unspoilt countryside locations and are renowned for their kitchens.

The chain offers four different categories of comfort which are recognisable by the colours of their shields. The category Green represents the standard of a pleasant and

simple country residence. Blue stands for a fine comfortable house in pleasing surroundings and Yellow for the refined comfort of a superb residence, while the hotels with the Gold shield, offer the deluxe service of a sumptuous establishment.

Many of the participating hotels carry an additional Red shield, representing recognition for outstanding cuisine.

and the consequent award of two or three Michelin stars.

Readers will receive with this offer a "Passport to Privilege" card which, upon presentation at the hotel at the time of arrival, entitles the holder to the discounts and privileges outlined in the offer, subject to availability. Readers will also receive a list of the participating hotels, a compi-

mentary copy of the Relais & Châteaux International Guide

1992 (which also lists 20 British establishments) and the corresponding European Road Map, valued at £7.50. The International Guide provides all the relevant information you will need to help you to select your hotel.

This superb offer is valid for unlimited stays between Sep-

tember 15 and December 31, 1992, when the booking is made in advance and directly with the chosen hotel. A list of participating hotels appears above. To qualify, simply collect all six of the seven tokens that have been published in *The Times* since last Saturday. The seventh token (for readers who may have missed a day) is published below.

HOW TO APPLY

To obtain your Privilege card and complimentary Relais & Châteaux International Guide 1992 and European Road Map, simply collect all six of the seven tokens published in *The Times* and send them, together with your name and address in block capitals, to: The Times/Relais & Château Offer, PO Box 490, London, E1 9DW, by Monday, September 7 1992.

Fabled gables in Alsace

STRAIGHT

TAKE ONE COOL GREEN BOTTLE.

FROM

POUR NEATLY INTO A COLD GLASS.

THE

SIP DEEPLY AND SURPRISE YOURSELF.

FRIDGE.

THE TASTE HAS EXTRA CRISPNESS.

SEEK CLEAR ICE COLD PLEASURE.

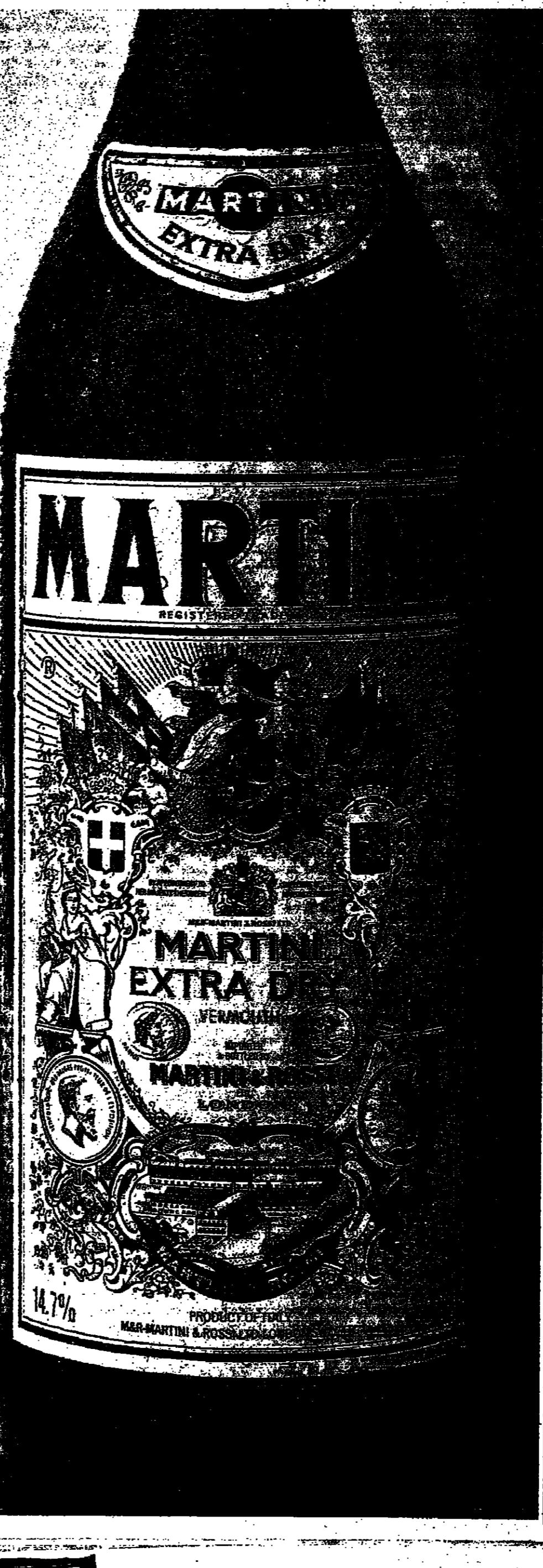
THAT'S

ISN'T THAT A REFRESHING FEEL?

COOL.

TAKE IT AS A REFRESHING

MARTINI



Luxury Hostellerie de l'Abbaye la Pommeraie

A isace is the French part of the Rhineland plain, with the Vosges mountains towering above it. There are two Relais & Château hotels quite near each other here, one on a full crest in the village of Colroy La Roche, the other lower down in the small town of Sélestat.

Both are owned by the same family, and the one on the hill crest, called La Chenaudière, was the first that they opened. It is in the gabled Alsace style, and its bedrooms, many with terraces, offer splendid views of the forests on the slopes and the mountain peaks.

The Hostellerie de l'Abbaye la Pommeraie down in Sélestat had many existences before it became a hotel. It once belonged to the Cistercian abbey of Baumgarten, then became a residence for king's lieutenants and military governors, and in due course a baronial mansion. Now, with its 17th-century oak staircase, and its old granaries converted into luxurious bedrooms, it is a match for its hilltop cousin.

Both hotels are good bases for visiting the forests and the pretty Alsatian villages; in fact all the Relais & Château hotels make perfect starting points for explorations. The Château de Loguenoë, for example, is a fine hotel set in a 250-acre park in the south-

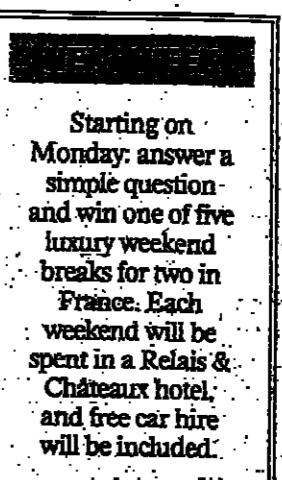
east corner of Brittany, overlooking an arm of the Atlantic, and within easy reach of Carnac, a famous site of prehistoric standing stones.

At the other end of France, Le St-Paul, a small 16th-century building in the heart of a medieval village, sits on top of a ridge high over the Mediterranean, with Nice, Antibes and Cannes just a drive away.

Moving north-west, Jean-Pierre Amat's Saint-James Restaurant, at Bouliac on the edge of Bordeaux, has long been a place of pilgrimage for lovers of good food. Since 1990 it has had a hotel to complement it the Hautevive. Where better to learn about France's finest wine country?

Other hotels ring with the echoes of French history. At the Hôtel du Bas Bréau, on the edge of the forest of Fontainebleau, near Paris, Margaret Thatcher is supposed to have stayed towards Europe in June 1984. She was dining and staying in the hotel for the night, in the company of Chancellor Kohl and President Mitterrand.

The hotel is in the village of Barbizon, where Millet, Courbet and Rousseau painted in the forest. Robert Louis Stevenson actually lived in a room in the hotel, with a view over the courtyard, which it is still possible to book.



Starting on Monday, answer a simple question and win one of five luxury weekend breaks for two in France. Each weekend will be spent in a Relais & Château hotel, and free car hire will be included.

THE TIMES

PASSPORT TO

FRANCE

RELAIS &

CHATEAUX

TOKEN

7

Pack up a moor-ish meal

Frances Bissell,
The Times cook,
prepares for the
Glorious Twelfth
with a hearty picnic
for a shooting party

LET me confess right now, since I am sure to drop the unwritten rule that will give the game away. I have never prepared food for a shooting picnic (or should I say shooting party?). However, I have friends who shoot and I am a great fan of Edwardian novels with their shooting party set pieces — the sources of inspiration for today's recipes, which round off several weeks of ideas for outdoor eating, and which will be perfect for a day out on the Glorious Twelfth, although you will not yet have fresh grouse for the first recipe.

If there was a chill start to the day, a flask of beef or game consommé with a shot of rum or sherry in it would be welcome. And a wide-mouthed vacuum jug containing a casserole would be a good idea. Beef and pigeon or venison cooked in port, red wine and some herbs fit the bill rather better than a pale casserole of chicken or rabbit in white wine.

Easily transportable food that does not crumble or go moist, limp or greasy is imperative. Sturdy fruit cakes and well-filled pies make excellent cold food, and have the advantage that they can, if needs be, be eaten on the move — essential if you are stalking deer for hours on end. I would have thought.

Sandwiches remain one of my favourite foods for picnics and for snacks, and they will be perfect for a shooting lunch, whether on the move or not. Cold roast meat or game is an obvious choice for filling, either sliced or potted. The recipe I have given for spiced pressed beef and grouse can be adapted to other game meats in season, or can be used for beef alone.

Lettuce hearts, celery and firm but ripe tomatoes would help down all the starch and protein and be refreshingly crisp if the weather is warm. Ginger biscuits, shortbread and dark bitter chocolate would accompany the flask of coffee.

The first job would be to find a fast-flowing stream or deep cold burn in which to chill the bottles of cider that I would include in my imaginary shooting lunch.

Spiced pressed beef with grouse
(serves 10 as a starter, or use as a sandwich filling)

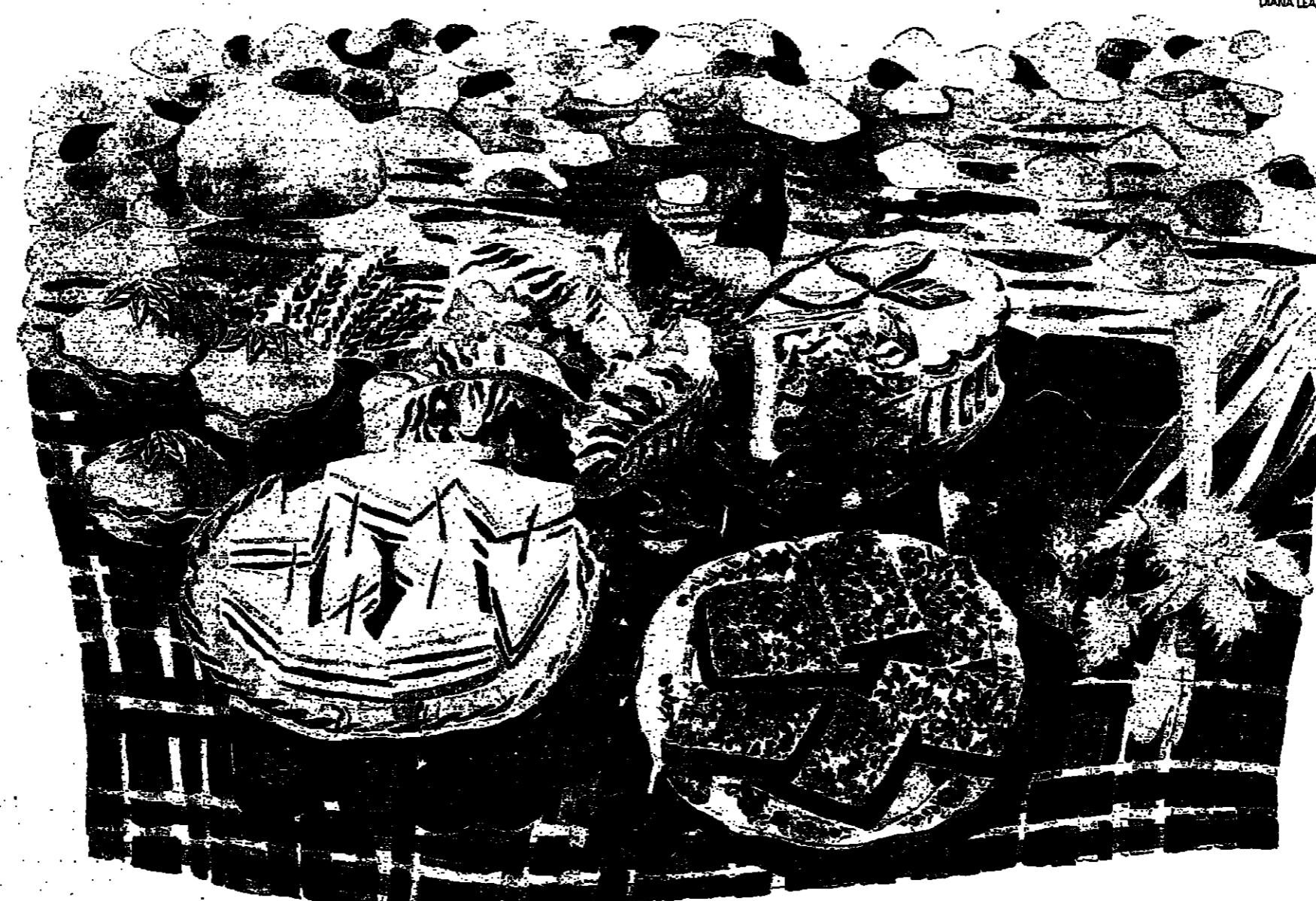
2lb/900g rump steak in a thick piece

breasts of 2 young grouse

pepper

6 juniper berries

6 cloves



6 allspice berries
large blade of mace
1pt/70ml port

4pt/70ml beef or game stock made from the trimmings of grouse carcasses and beef

1 bay leaf

clarified butter

Slice steak about 1/2in/1cm thick. Remove fillets from under the grous' breasts, and cut the breasts into strips or slices of a similar thickness to the beef. Layer the meat in a terrine. Season lightly with pepper and scatter the spices over the meat. Pour the port and stock over the meat and place the bay leaf on top. Cover with foil and cook in the bottom half of a pre-heated oven at 180C/350F, gas mark 4 until the meat is just cooked through and tender. Remove from the oven and drain off the cooking juices, which can be reserved for another dish. Cover the meat with foil again, weight down to press it down, cool and then refrigerate for several hours. The meat can then be thinly sliced if using it immediately, or it can be covered

with clarified butter for use in two to three days.

Potted beef and grouse

The ingredients used in the previous recipe will also make potted meat. Prepare, season and cook the meat as described above. When cooked, drain off the juices and put the meat in a processor or mincer with about 4lb/110g butter and a little of the cooking juice. Mince or process until smooth, and pack into ramekins to be covered with clarified butter, if it is to be served as a starter, or use the meat as a spread for sandwiches.

Little game pies

(makes 24 individual pies)

1lb/455g cooked meat off the bone, grous', pigeon or venison or mixture
3oz/85g raisins
3oz/85g sultanas
1 apple

3oz/85g pine nuts or blanched almonds, chopped

3oz/85g light muscovado sugar

juice and grated zest of a lemon

1pt/270ml game stock, gravy or cooking juices

1 small onion, peeled and finely chopped

1tbsp finely chopped parsley

salt, pepper

ground mace or nutmeg

ground allspice

3lb/340g plain shortcrust pastry

beaten egg and milk glaze

beaten egg and milk glaze

Line a pie dish with half the pastry. Cut the ham or bacon into pieces and place in the pie. Chop the green vegetables and herbs and mix with a couple of tablespoons of chervil and parsley and rather less of tarragon and spoon on top of the meat. Beat the eggs, cream or stock and a little pepper and pour over the filling. Roll out the remaining pastry to make a lid. Seal the edges and brush with the glaze. Place on a baking tray, and bake in a pre-heated oven at 180C/350F, gas mark 4 for about 35–40 minutes.

Roll out the pastry, and use two thirds to line two tins. Spoon in the filling and cover with pastry lids cut from the remaining pastry. Brush with the egg and milk, and bake in a pre-heated oven at 180C/350F, gas mark 4 for 35–40 minutes.

Herb and ham pie

(serves 4–6)

1lb/455g shortcrust pastry

1lb/455g gammon or bacon slices

1lb/330g spinach, washed, blanched and dried

apple

If you are serving the sandwiches at home, the bread can be lightly toasted on one side and the sandwiches lightly sprinkled with icing sugar.

DIANA LEADBETTER

FRANCE

GREAT CLASSICS

LA DAUBE DE BOEUF

SLOW-cooked meat casseroles were a boon to the busy housewife in rural France. The *bacchonfia* of Alsace and the *estouffade* of Gascony share many of the same features of the *coq au vin* and the *daube*. Tougher and therefore less expensive pieces of meat were put into a pot with herbs, a few vegetables for seasoning, and a generous helping of the local wine, covered and sealed, and put in the bottom of the oven for hours while the many household and farmyard tasks were completed.

We are all just as busy today, which makes a dish like this perfect for a large supper. A green salad of crudites beforehand and fresh fruit and cheese to finish makes this an easy meal to prepare and serve. Four pounds of meat sounds a lot for eight people but it does shrink.

This recipe is based on one given to me by Michel Lorain, who has just devised a southwest menu for Le Méridien hotel in London.

La daube de boeuf au vin de Madiran

(serves 8)

4lb/1.8kg beef, chuck or blade, in one piece

1 onion, peeled and chopped

1 carrot, peeled and sliced

1 celery stalk, trimmed and sliced

4 thin slices of Bayonne or Parma ham

1 bottle of Madiran wine

1pt/570ml beef stock

freshly ground black pepper

1 bouquet garni

4lb/340g baby carrots

4lb/340g small pickling onions

4lb/110g shelled peas

3oz/85g butter (optional)

Brown the beef all over in a frying pan. Remove, and put to one side. Brown the vegetables. Wrap the piece of meat in the ham slices, and tie it into a neat parcel. Put the meat and vegetables in a casserole and pour in the wine and stock to about three-quarters of the way up the meat. Add the pepper and bouquet garni. Cook in a low oven or over a very low heat for about six hours. Cook the extra vegetables separately half an hour before serving. When the beef is cooked, remove it and keep in a warm place. Strain the cooking juices into a wide saucepan, and reduce by about half. Mount the sauce with butter, if liked, or stir in a little *beurre manié* (equal quantities of flour and softened butter mixed). If using the latter, cook the sauce for ten minutes longer.

To serve, untie the beef, and remove the ham. Cut two or three slices of beef for each plate, add the vegetables. Spoon the sauce over the meat, and garnish with a few shreds of Bayonne or Parma ham.

F.B.

Single malt, multiple choice

Robin Young savours the wide variety of good whiskies available

On Father's Day this year my present was to open *The Independent* and discover that I had unwittingly written a full-page advertisement for The Macallan Speyside single malt whisky.

The Macallan's advertising agency, without attribution to or consultation with me, had reproduced my published tasting notes on malt whiskies (not my copyright apparently), adding a line to the effect that since one could not buy them all, one should buy the best. The tasting note on The Macallan was circled in red.

I had not, in fact, said that The Macallan was the best. Nor would I. The last time I did a blind tasting and attempted to award scores, it was an immaculately refined and aristocratically elegant Springbank from Campbeltown (two and a half times distilled, I am told, and not chin filtered) which came out top.

But the approach is, I think now, easily faulted. The truth is that malt whiskies are the *grands crus* of Scotland, and almost as wonderfully various as wines. There cannot be one best. There have to be many, and among them, it is fair to say, The Macallan would certainly figure.

The Springbank distillery, for example, makes a second style of malt whisky, called Longrow. This is the idiosyncratic phenolic creation once memorably described by a contemporary as having "the aroma of wet sheep, the attack of tiger's claws". It is not better or worse than Springbank, just markedly different.

It is only in the past 30 years that single malts (whiskies made at one distillery exclusively from malted barley) have been available south of the border. Glenfiddich took the initiative in 1963, and is



Master blender: Jim Milne of the Knockando distillery

Best buys

• Tesco Islay Ten Year Old Malt Tesco, £16.95

A delicate, elegant, peaty Islay.

• Tesco 1972 Traditional Campbeltown Malt Tesco, £29.99

Flagship to the Tesco range.

Fragrant, smooth, complex.

• The Macallan 10-year-old Thresher, Wine Rack, Bottoms Up, £18.79; Waitrose, £19.75; The Victoria Wine Company, £19.85.

Tesco, £19.69; Oddbins, £19.99

Aged in dry oloroso sherry casks, exceptionally smooth, beautifully balanced.

• Springbank 21-year-old, 46% Oddbins, £36

Exceptional complexity from the Campbeltown distillery.

• Knockando 1978 Oddbins, Wine Rack, Bottoms Up, £19.99

Is this new release marginally sweeter and fruitier than the 1977 and 1976 which may still be in the shops?

That's the sort of subtle difference that keeps malt whisky enthusiasts sipping.

Malt whiskies differ hugely because there are various ways of malting the barley, mashing the malt, fermenting the wort and distilling the whisky. Then the spirit may be matured in casks which previously contained different drinks, most importantly sherry and bourbon, which donate quite different tastes to the finished product.

The water supply to each distillery makes an important contribution, as does the particular nature of the local peat used in kilning. Whisky folk claim they can detect the influence of the coast and sea air on whiskies matured near the shore, and cold mountain locations, are said to help produce clean, rich whiskies.

Which you finally select may be decided by sentimental considerations. Many distilleries welcome visitors and the well-organised tours offered at, for example, Glenfiddich. The Glenlivet and Glenfarclas on Speyside's "malt whisky trail" and Bowmore on Islay must have recruited many loyal customers.

Curiosity can play a part, too.

Glenmorangie attracts interest to its light and distinctive smoky, fruity character.

For those wanting to box the

tionally tall pot stills. No doubt some will want to try the pungently sweet-scented Edradour, which tastes of mint, honey and nuts, simply because it comes from Scotland's smallest distillery. I hope they will not be deterred because it also happens to belong to one of the world's biggest drink companies, Pernod Ricard.

For those wanting to box the

Eat your browns and purples

Tired of greens? Try Scottish seaweed for a healthy change

Scotland has a new food to add to its traditional repertoire of salmon, shortbread and steaks. But is the rest of Britain ready for sea vegetables? Will people who have always been rather reluctant to eat up their greens now stomach browns and purples?

Using traditional Scottish nomenclature, sea vegetables are sold under names such as dulse, slabhagan (pronounced *slachan*), dabblerocks and grockle. In plain English they would be called seaweed, because that is what they are.

If you were to design the perfect food for the 1990s, enthusiasts claim, this would be it. Sea vegetables contain important minerals, such as calcium and iron; vital trace elements such as iodine, zinc, magnesium and potassium; and essential vitamins from groups A, B and C. Yet they have no cholesterol and so little fat they contain practically no calories at all. They pack up to 25 per cent protein value, are flavour enhancers in their own right and are quite delicious, yet they are still totally unfamiliar outside Japanese restaurants.

Internationally, Scotland lags a little. The Emperor Sze Teu of China declared: "Sea vegetables are a delicacy fit for the most honoured guest," and that was in the 6th century BC. On the other hand, the "fried seaweed" served in most oriental restaurants in Britain these days is no more than deep-fried shredded lettuce.

Scotland's sea vegetables are at least guaranteed to be the real thing. In Britain, Julian Clokie is the pioneer of sea vegetable marketing. He runs Clokie's Scottish Sea Vegetables from Fearn in Ross-shire, north of Inverness, and has established himself as Britain's principal supplier of wild British sea vegetables.

Following the wine analogy the peaty, iodine-scented island malts, which include Skye's spicy Talisker, acridly pungent Isle of Jura, Bowmore and Highland Park, are a style that people tend to either love or loathe.

Bunnahabhain and Bruichladdich from Islay are the gentlest introductions, while the equivalent of Zind-Humbrecht's *grands crus* (the most powerful) are peat-reeking, iodine-stenching Laphroaig and Lagavulin.

With the assistance of an

informal team of hunter-gatherers, he harvests seven varieties from the areas of the coastline of Ross-shire, Caithness and Sutherland, where water purity, light penetration, temperature and the depth of the sea-bed help the wild seaweeds to flourish most abundantly. Each variety has to be collected in the few short weeks of each year that it is in its prime.

The seaweeds (sorry, sea vegetables) are then fastidiously dried to maintain the absolute cleanliness, consistency and taste of the product, and packed for sale in 15-gram packets. Each packet comes with a helpful recipe attached to assist those who are inexperienced in seaweed cooking.

Though 15 grams sounds a rather minute quantity, the seaweed when soaked bulks out marvellously so that users find a very little goes a long way. Each packet will provide enough for several meals.

Clokie's Sea Vegetables now sells dried seaweed to more

SUMMER

on their summer
Poole takes
pic in the sunshine

the only road passes through
Valloire, a pleasant village in a
hollow which is an oasis of simple outdoor pleasures.

The Arc valley is better known as the Maurienne, a name combining the patois words of *mau* and *riou* which translate as wicket river. Whatever ferocity the stream may once have demonstrated has now been tamed for power and industry, which combine with heavy traffic from the Fréjus tunnel and Mont Cenis passes into Italy to produce long stretches of gothic grimness. But from Modane onwards the villages of the upper Maurienne retain more of their traditional character.

Stone, not wood, is the building material in this part of the Alps, and the village houses clustered tightly together round farmyards, narrow lanes and minuscule vegetable plots have splendid roofs paved in *lauzes*, impressively large slabs of the local schist. Beneath eaves built deep to carry snow away from the thick walls and few small windows, the winter's supply of firewood dries on rough wooden balconies. Haylofts insulate the family below, which once shared the ground floor with the warmth of its animals.

The best preserved of these villages is Bonneval-sur-Arc, where electricity and telephone wires and television aerials have been hidden, and cars banished, in an attempt to maintain an semblance of bucolic authenticity. It works well up to a point, and when it is quiet it is not hard to imagine a scene of village life 100 years ago or more.

Only one road leads out of Bonneval and it climbs to the highest pass in France, the Col d'Isère, which still had snow in late June, although the road was clear. Last time I was up here the scene had been a dazzling white wonderland populated by brilliantly clad skiers. In summer the acres of grey shale and the pylons of the cable lift give the place a baleful aspect. Moonlight cuts out of industrial wasteland. Not somewhere to hang round.

It was the oddest feeling, riding down to Le Fornet and d'Isère, to feel disoriented

on ground I had skied over so often. A glimpse of recognition, then lost again. And shocking, on every side, the scars of what the skiing industry does to the mountain landscape. The damage is not a pretty sight in summer.

Val d'Isère looked quite awful, too. Although big efforts were made to improve its boom-town looks for last winter's Olympics, it looks more bust than boom without thick duvets of snow on roofs and icicles hanging from the eaves. And too little of the town opens in summer to create a good holiday mood. The tourist office has a brochure of summer sporting activities, but the list of hotels and restaurants which are open is short.

Tignes, Val's winter sporting neighbour, fares little better, but further down the Isère valley the rushing streams and lush vegetation of the *haute Tarentaise* make picture postcard views of domesticated alpine scenery. In St-Foy-Tarentaise an elderly couple were haymaking with scythes, gathering the grass from the ground round their chalet. Vegetable gardens cling to steep slopes as if hung out to dry.

From Bourg-St-Maurice, the regional agricultural centre, through Modiers to Albertville, axis of last winter's Olympics, the valley opens out. The scale becomes grander, the scene gradually less rural. Albertville is a crossroads (sometimes a bottleneck). Turn west for Chambéry and Aix, east for Chamonix, the great climbing resort and centre of alpinism. I headed for lovely, animated Annecy with its misty lake, its sailing boats and pretty waterside hotels, and fishermen out in small boats at dawn and dusk.

Their quarry is the *omble chevalier*, a fish found only in the deep, clean waters of the Alpine lakes, and so esteemed for its rarity as well as its eating qualities. These are good, especially when the cook is Sophie Bise of the legendary Auberge du Père Bise on the lakeside at the village of Talloires. It was to Sophie's great-grandmother that Cézanne, when short of cash, offered a painting in payment for his lunch. Now there was an offer that should not have been refused.

Next week: Alsace Lorraine



Bucolic beauty: in well-preserved Bonneval it is not hard to imagine a scene of simple village life 100 years ago

Prices rise with the altitude

PROPERTY

THE French Alps no longer have a shortage of apartments for sale. Concrete purpose-built resorts are littered across the mountainsides in the popular Savoie region.

The Winter Olympics, held in February, encouraged a rash of building during the past two years in high-altitude resorts near Albertville. Now sales are slow and there is a glut of newly built holiday flats for sale.

Prices in some places have been cut by up to 15 per cent over the past year by developers anxious to offload unsold apartments. The fall in demand has also had an impact on resale values, and discounts of up to 5 per cent are available to cash buyers in some places.

Property prices vary enormously, mostly depending upon location and accessibility to the ski-slopes. High-altitude resorts in the Savoie region, including Méribel, Courchevel and Val d'Isère are more expensive, but the letting potential is good.

New flats in the fashionable resort of Val d'Isère fetch up to 100,000 for one bedroom, three-storey property is better value; small second-hand flat in the



Snowy mountain high: this chalet in the Lozère is £59,500

same resort is about £32,000. Elsewhere, prices start at £25,000 for a tiny studio, and from £30,000 to £80,000 for one and two-bedroom flats in purpose-built blocks. Larger two and three-bedroom chalets cost from £80,000 to more than £400,000.

Property prices drop at lower altitudes in the Hautes Savoie. The Portes du Soleil ski area, between Mont Blanc and Lake Geneva, is a summer and winter resort. It is largely rustic and unspoilt, scattered with pretty

timber-built chalets, with skiing to the back door.

Further south and west, towards Lake Annecy, La Clusaz is an attractive old town, situated about 45 minutes from Geneva airport. A small flat here would cost about £30,000. A traditional timber-framed chalet, with three or four bedrooms, two bathrooms and a double garage, would cost from £100,000, including the cost of the land.

Among the smart shops and restaurants of Chamonix, at the foot of Mont Blanc, close to Italy and only 40 minutes from Geneva, apartments range from £35,000 for one bedroom to £200,000 for a luxury three-bedroom penthouse.

Those seeking a home for summer and winter use should avoid resorts above tree level (1,800m), which are first and foremost ski resorts, and turn into ghost towns out of season.

CHERYL TAYLOR

UK agents with associates in the French Alps include Rutherford's (Savoie), Fraise Greene House, 7 Chelsea Manor Street, London SW3 3TW (071-351 4454) and Alpine Apartments Ltd (Hautes Savoie), Hinton Manor, Eardisland, nr Leominster, Herefordshire (0544 7234).

PHOTOGRAPH BY HUGH DURKIN

40 rooms and a heated pool. Doubles, half board, FFr520-550 (£55-58). CAMPING: The Alps can offer some of the most idyllically romantic spots for camping anywhere. River banks dotted with Alpine flowers are especially attractive. Camping savage is not permitted within the boundaries of the national parks or in many other places. However, in this region, many official campsites are as quiet and as rural as anyone could wish. The Michelin guide *Camping et Caravanning France 1992* costs £6.95 and lists a well-chosen selection of campsites throughout the country with comprehensive details of their facilities.

The British tour operator French Country Camping (0923 261311) offers packages to several campsites in the Alps with hotel, ferry and Motorail options.

VFR Holidays (0242 526338) *Outdoor France* brochure has an *Alp Actif* programme, offering every kind of Alpine summer sport at two centres, La Clusaz and Valloire, based on hotel, apartment or chalet accommodation.

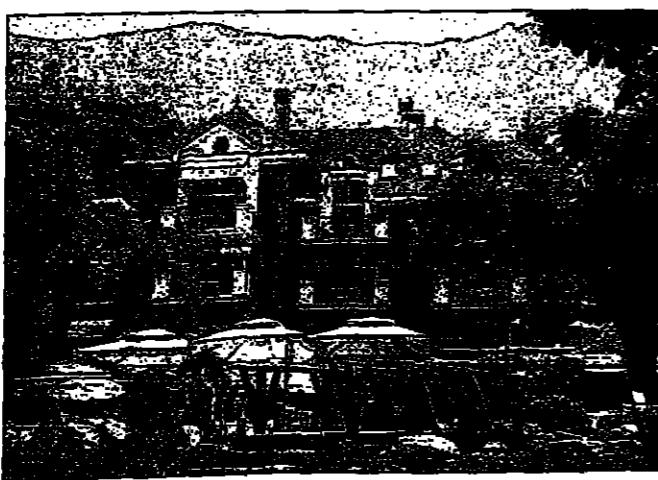
sine so successfully that the Gault Millau guide rates Veyrat's among the top 12 tables in France. Half-board double room is FFr1,350-2,800 (£142-295). La Demenue (50 60 77 33) retains the cloister of its former role as a 17th-century Benedictine monastery. Half-board for a double room is FFr660-995 (£69-105). The third, and newest of the three, is chef Marc Veyrat's Auberge de l'Eridan at Veyrier-du-Lac (50 60 24 00). The former shepherd and self-taught chef has made his reputation on a modern interpretation of Savoyarde cul-

pleasant hotel in the modern utilitarian mode, with a popular cafe terrace. Double rooms, FFr520 (£55). The Hotel Edelweiss, 32 Avenue République (92 21 02 94) is a small, traditional hotel with 22 rooms (no restaurant). Doubles FFr350 (£37).

VAL D'ISÈRE: Many of the hotels popular with skiers do not open in summer. One which does is l'Alpiniste (79 06 12 55), a modern, chalet-style hotel with

WHERE TO STAY

ANNECY: For top-notch luxury, Lake Annecy and the villages round it offer a wide choice of gorgeously sited hotels with deceptively rustic names. Swallows nesting in the eaves of my terrace overlooking the lake at l'Auberge du Père Bise at Talloires (01 33 50 60-72 01) flew complicated aerial manoeuvres round the breakfast table. The half-board rate of FFr1,200-1,600 (£126-168) for a double room includes dinner in the two-star (Michelin) restaurant. Père Bise is a member of the Relais & Châteaux consortium for which the UK inquiries number is 071-491 2516. There are two more Relais & Châteaux hotels close by: l'Abbaye de Talloires (50 60 77 33) retains the cloister of its former role as a 17th-century Benedictine monastery. Half-board for a double room is FFr660-995 (£69-105). The third, and newest of the three, is chef Marc Veyrat's Auberge de l'Eridan at Veyrier-du-Lac (50 60 24 00). The former shepherd and self-taught chef has made his reputation on a modern interpretation of Savoyarde cul-



Classy cuisine: chef Marc Veyrat's Auberge de l'Eridan

sine so successfully that the Gault Millau guide rates Veyrat's among the top 12 tables in France. Half-board double room is FFr1,350-2,800 (£142-295). La Demenue (50 60 77 33) retains the cloister of its former role as a 17th-century Benedictine monastery. Half-board for a double room is FFr660-995 (£69-105). The third, and newest of the three, is chef Marc Veyrat's Auberge de l'Eridan at Veyrier-du-Lac (50 60 24 00). The former shepherd and self-taught chef has made his reputation on a modern interpretation of Savoyarde cul-

ROS DRINKWATER

HOW TO GET THERE

LYONS is the gateway to the Alps for motorists driving out from Britain and for air travellers. Air France Holidays (081-508 0981) has fly-drive packages based on flights from London Heathrow to Lyons (April to December only). Prices for two people sharing a group A car start at £210 each for seven days. Anything less than a two-litre engine is underpowered for the mountain roads, so the minimum hire category I would settle for would be group C, which from Heriz is a Ford Sierra or a Peugeot 405, at £288. There is a high season (July to September) supplement of £22 a person.

• T.A.T. European Airlines (0293 568888) flies daily from London Gatwick to Lyons. The advance booking Apex fare is £195 return.

• Train travel can work particularly well for walkers, and the Alps are well served with railway stations and connections. There are, for example, four trains a day from Paris to Briançon. A combined air and rail pass with Air France Holidays flight Gatwick to Paris and train to Briançon, costs £161 return.

• Return rail travel from London Victoria to Briançon costs from £140-80 and to Moutiers £138 (SNCF inquiries 071-491 1573).

GUIDEBOOKS

COMPARED with groaning shelves of books written in English about areas such as the Loire and Brittany, the Alps are poorly served. Walkers and wildlife enthusiasts fare better than anyone interested in the history, and particularly the domestic and agricultural history, of the region. Once there, French speakers will have no difficulty finding a choice of social histories of the area.

• The best book I have found in English is *Savoie, the Land, People and Food of the French Alps*, by Madeleine Kamman, published in America by Atheneum. It can be ordered here through Books Etc., 120 Charing Cross Road, London WC2R 0JR (071-379 6838) and costs £21.

• There are Michelin green guides to the *Alpes du Sud (Haute-Provence)*, and the *Alpes du Nord (Savoie-Dauphiné)* which are, as always, concise, informative and pitched at exactly the right level for the holiday visitor. So far these guides are available only in French, at £6.95 each.

• *Wildlife Travelling Companion France*, by Bob Gibbons and Paul Davies (The Crowood Press, Marlborough, Wiltshire, £13.99) has chapters on the flora and fauna of the northern and southern French Alps.

• *The Visitor's Guide To France: Alps & Jura*, by Paul Scola (Moordland Publishing Company, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, £9.99).

EVENTS

IN manifestations the French have a word for their fêtes and festivals which conjures up the quirks of many of the events. Tourist offices have details of many more local happenings than can be mentioned here. Highlights of the summer season include:

• August 15-23, Val d'Isère: "The largest and highest motor show in the world" is the billing given to the four-wheel drive and all-terrain vehicle international motor show. Visitors can "try and approve" all the models on show on the suitably testing terrain of 2,000-hectare Espace Killy.

• August 15, Chamonix and La Grave: Mountain guides' festivals.

• August 15, Valloire: Procession in local costume.

• August 22-23, Aix-les-Bains: Flower festival.

• Other regular events include an international folkloric festival called the Fête de l'Edelweiss at Bourg-St-Maurice in mid-July, and Annecy's lake festival with music and fireworks on the first Saturday of August.

CHRISTMAS OR NEW YEAR IN MEISSEN

ABOARD THE DELUXE RIVER VESSEL – THE PRINCESS OF PRUSSIA

Visiting: Meissen-Dresden-Saxon Switzerland-Potsdam from £795
23-28 DECEMBER 1992 28 DECEMBER-2 JANUARY 1992/3



Join us for from the madding crowd in Medieval Meissen for a five night Christmas or New Year break. Relax aboard the 5 star Princess of Prussia, moored in one of East Germany's most picturesque small towns on the banks of the River Elbe.

Meissen is an excellent base, close to Dresden and some of the most important and extravagant eighteenth century Baroque buildings in Germany.

In addition to an interesting and leisurely-paced itinerary there will be a visit to the beautifully restored Semper Opera House in Dresden. Here there will be a performance of Mozart's 'The Magic Flute' for those travelling over Christmas, and for the New Year travellers there will be a gala concert on New Years Eve.

THE PRINCESS OF PRUSSIA

The Princess of Prussia is one of the finest river vessels in the world accommodating up to 140 passengers in outside, well-appointed cabins with shower and wc; the top deck cabins have french windows whilst the lower deck offers picture windows. Built in Yorkshire, she is operated by Peter Deilmann Cruises with a German/French crew. The one-sitting restaurant offers excellent cuisine, there is also a lounge, hairdressers, clinic and shop.

The vessel will be moored on the Elbe next to the famous Castle mountain, within walking distance of the old town of Meissen.

THE ITINERARY

CHRISTMAS DEPARTURE

DAY 1 Morning British Airways flight to Berlin, Drive to Meissen for lunch and embark on the Princess of Prussia in time for tea. Dinner on board.

DAY 2 Morning excursion of Meissen including the Gothic Albrechtsburg Castle and the thirteenth century Cathedral



where we hope to attend an organ recital. See the museum, market square and the Baroque town houses. Lunch on board and afternoon at leisure. Gala dinner. For those who wish to attend, there will be midnight mass in Meissen.

DAY 3 Morning church service at the Cathedral. Day excursion to the mountains of Saxon Switzerland with lunch. Even in winter this area is extraordinarily beautiful. See Bad Schandau, a pretty riverside spa town. Return to the vessel for afternoon tea. Drive to Dresden for a performance of 'The Magic Flute' at the Opera House. Late supper.

DAY 4 Morning excursion of Dresden. Visit the Zwinger, a magnificent 18th century Baroque building. In the pavilions, see the fine collections of Oriental and Meissen porcelain and old master paintings. Free for lunch. Afternoon visit to the fabulous green Vault – the greatest collection of jewellery and precious Objets d'Art in Europe. Dinner on board.

DAY 5 Morning visit to the Porcelain Manufactury for a step by step demonstration – showroom, museum and shop. See St Nicholas Church on the way back to the vessel. Afternoon free. Evening walking tour with wine-tasting. Dinner on board.

DAY 6 Drive to Potsdam. Visit the Rococo Palace of Sans Souci built by Frederick the Great and continue to Berlin for evening British Airways flight to Heathrow.

NB: New Year's departure will offer a similar itinerary.

PRICES PER PERSON

Lower Deck £795

Upper Deck £835

Single £950

Price includes: Economy air travel, 5 night's accommodation including breakfast, dinner and afternoon tea daily plus four lunches, excursion, entrance fees, best available tickets for the Dresden Opera House coach transportation in Germany, guest speaker. Not included: Travel insurance £130.50, tips.

HOW TO BOOK

For reservations and further information, please telephone 071-491 1532.



Thriving on palace life: the Earl and Countess of Mansfield at Scone, where visitor numbers have increased in the past 21 years from 15,000 a year to about 100,000

Like most peers of the realm, the earls of Mansfield earned their land by an act of loyalty to a king. About 400 years ago in Perth, James VI escaped from one of those labyrinthine Scottish conspiracies through the help of the Murrays. Their payment was generous: ennoblement, together with the gift of the 27,000-acre estate of Scone and the ruins of the ancient episcopal palace, where the early kings of Scotland were once crowned.

Today, the 8th Earl of Mansfield runs Scone Palace with the same lawyer-like efficiency he brings to his job as chairman of the Crown Estates, where he helps to administer 300,000 acres on behalf of the royal family. The roles have intertwined well, he says, in that owning Scone has taught him much about land uses, and the Crown Estates responsibilities offer him an overview of the national patterns of town and countryside.

Scone's green acres reach along both banks of the Tay, just above

At the earl's court

Joy Billington visits a palatial reward of loyalty

Perth. It was in that city, in 1559, that John Knox preached so fiery a sermon that his inflamed followers marched the five miles to Scone and sacked the old abbey and bishop's palace. The present buildings' heart was built some 40 years later, when the land was given to the Murrays, and it was later Gothicised into its present shape.

Of course, Scottish history has more than its share of blood-curdling tales to thrill the tourist. But the legendary Scone coronation stone also ranks high in the hearts of Scottish patriots, including the Murrays. Taken from Scone in the year 1296 by Edward I, it was placed in Westminster

Abbey under the coronation throne, where it has remained ever since, except for one notable adventure. In 1951 it was "removed" from Westminster Abbey by a group of young Scots.

"It was a protest," Lord Mansfield says. "They were the precursors of the Scottish nationalists. In those days, security at Westminster Abbey was virtually nil, so they managed to break in and prise the stone from under the coronation chair, drop it, break it, and put it in the back of an Austin Seven they'd parked in Parliament Square."

"They drove it back to Scotland and offered it to my father, asking him to intercede with the king on

their behalf. He said no, he'd taken an oath of loyalty to George VI, and though he understood their reasons, he couldn't play any part in it. Eventually, the Stone of Destiny was left on the altar at Arbroath Abbey. It was repaired, and returned to Westminster Abbey, where it stays to this day."

In the 21 years since he inherited, in 1971, the 8th earl has built up Scone tourism from 15,000 annually to about 100,000, with the help of an administrator, a staff of guides and a chef who prepares the banquets that give Scone a reputation for good food.

Of Scone's visitors, only 40 per cent are Scots. However, it man-

ages to attract a broad range of people, from the coach parties that are the backbone of its tourism to the well-heeled, who come to shoot pheasant or to fish the Tay for salmon. Scone also maintains a profitable relationship with nearby Gleneagles Hotel for various events, and is a popular venue for business dinners.

Lady Mansfield has taken courses at the V&A to learn more about Scone's various treasures—the collections of French and Italian furniture, the famous Vernis Martin papier-mâché objets d'art, and the paintings.

She has a practical philosophy about life in a palace. Heating and household help are the essentials, she says, but "there are times when you panic, and think you can't cope, that no fortune can stand it all. And there's the discomfort of having work going on all year round."

● **Scone Palace, Perth, is open until October 12. Entrance is £3.70, child £2, family ticket £11.**

JOY BILLINGTON

BBC1

- 6.40 Open University:** Problems with Ions (5816880) 7.05 Maths: Complex Numbers (5700083) 7.30 The Adam Smith Lecture
- 7.55 Olympic Grandstand** introduced by Steve Rider from Barcelona. Includes at 9.10 News and weather. Equestrian: The final of the individual show jumping competition. Commentary by Raymond Brooks-Ward and Stephen Hadley. Cricket: The last six finals from fourth day of the final Test at the Oval between England and Pakistan (s) (5319841)
- 12.00 Sign Extra: Who Really Killed Cock Robin?** Murder and incest, love-grabbing and seduction are all part of the everyday life of a robin. With sign language and subtitles (r) (51170)
- 12.30 Countryfile:** John Craven investigates the conditions in which 600 million chickens spend their final hours every year (1132460) 12.55 Weather (5181728)
- 1.00 News** (7251181)
- 1.05 The High Chaparral:** Vintage western drama. An army deserter takes Billy Blue prisoner (r) (6661712). Wales: The National Eisteddfod of Wales 1.45 Coronation Street
- 2.00 EastEnders:** Omnibus edition (r) (Ceefax) (s) (49967)
- 3.00 Eldorado:** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (9170)
- 3.30 Columbo:** Troubled Waters. The dishevelled detective takes a holiday on a cruise liner bound for Mexico, but his rest is disturbed when the ship's singer is murdered. Starring Peter Falk, Patrick Macnee and Robert Vaughn. (Ceefax) (3083)
- 5.00 Olympic Grandstand** introduced by Desmond Lynam from Barcelona: Athletics: 5.30: The final event of the games — the men's marathon; plus a round-up of the day's other events and a look back at the highlights of the past two weeks. 8.30 Closing Ceremony: David Coleman describes the final moments as the Olympic flag is lowered and vows are made to meet in Atlanta in 1996 (8601118)
- 10.00 News with Michael Buerk:** (Ceefax) Weather (547422)



Last frontier? Joan Bakewell on women at war (10.15pm)

10.15 Heart of the Matter

- CHOICE: Tonight's moral hot potato is whether women should cross one of the last forbidden frontiers and take part in front-line combat. The debate has been renamed by the Gulf war, in which 33,000 women took part and 11 lost their lives, despite being officially barred from the fighting. At the heart of Joan Bakewell's report is an interview with Major Rhonda Comum, the flight-surgeon from the United States army, who was sexually assaulted by Iraqi guards while a prisoner of war. She is adamant that her experience is not an argument against women serving in combat roles, but many Americans are saying the opposite. Perhaps inevitably, the debate seems to divide along gender lines. Men question whether women have the necessary aggression, women say they should have the right to decide. (2/5235). Northern Ireland: Championship Special 11.05 Heart of the Matter.
- 10.50 Docie Houser MD:** A new series of the American comedy about a teenage medical genius. Docie learns that egotism can cut both ways (s) (885286)
- 11.15 The Reivers** (1968). Lively version of a William Faulkner story starring Steve McQueen as a hired hand who takes his boss's car and grandson on a jaunt to Memphis. Directed by Mark Rydell. (Ceefax) (747625). Northern Ireland to 1.25am: Film: The Reivers 1.00am Weather (5881126)

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BBC2

- 6.55 Open University:** Networks and Partnerships (5822441) 7.00 Nicholson and Wallis at St Ives (5709354) 7.25 A Natural Model (5728489) 7.50 Toulouse: Money and Power in Provincial France (1596422) 8.15 The Industry of Culture (8619002) 8.40 Driven Clean Away (4609198)
- 9.05 Articles of Faith:** Father Herbert McCabe questions whether prayer should be confined only to spiritual things (r) (5373844)
- 9.20 This is the Day:** Norma Crook joins clown Roy Bann at the Clowns International Charity Event at Bicton Park head Easter (5482335)
- 9.55 Open University:** A Question of Balance (6951712) 10.20 A Europe of the Regions? (5228118) 11.10 Open Forum (1482286) 11.35 The Mumus: Sugar Scheme (5269151)
- 12.00 Olympic Grandstand** presented by Steve Rider from Barcelona. Includes the second round of the individual show jumping competition, plus highlights of this morning's six boxing finals and news of the men's volleyball final. Cricket: Live coverage of the fourth day's play of the final Test at the Oval between England and Pakistan (s) (5526809)
- 5.00 Cricket:** England v Pakistan. Continued live coverage of the fourth day's play of the final Test from the Oval (s) (6856625)
- 6.25 News and weather** (221847)
- 6.40 Songs of Praise** from the village of Yardley Hastings in Northamptonshire (Ceefax) (472460)
- 7.15 Life on Earth:** The Competitive Communicators. In the last of his series, David Attenborough focuses on the origins of Humankind. His investigation takes him to caves in southern France where stone-age people created paintings of ice-age animals and to Papua New Guinea to find the Bami tribe who had never before set eyes on white people. (Ceefax) (r) (635731)



Bedside vigil: Julie Walters (8.10pm)

8.10 Intensive Care

- CHOICE: Tonight's play in the Alan Bennett season comes from a 1982 collection called Objects of Affection which was notable for the morbidity of its subject matter. Like several of the others, Intensive Care is set in a hospital and is concerned with death and dying. Bennett himself plays the hero, a schoolteacher in early middle-age, who finds unexpected happiness with the night nurse (Julie Walters) just as his father is breathing his last. A favourite Bennett actress, Thora Hird, completes a trio of fine performances as a formidable aunt. Given its theme the piece could hardly be called a tragedy either. Rather, it is more tantalisingly between the two, sustained by Bennett's acute delineation of social class and precise ear for the poetry of everyday speech (r) (8759644)
- 9.30 Film:** Play Misty for Me (1971) Clint Eastwood and Jessica Walter star in a clever thriller in which a late-night disc jockey is hounded by a besotted listener. Directed by Clint Eastwood (163147)
- 11.10 Critic:** Highlights of the fourth day's play at the Oval between England and Pakistan (s) (554441)

- 11.40 The Night Stalker:** Darren McGavin stars in the supernatural drama series (5037031)
- 12.30am Film:** Secret Beyond the Door (bw, 1948). Joan Bennett and Michael Redgrave star in this gloomy psychological thriller. After a whirlwind romance a woman marries the man of her dreams, but she discovers he has a dark secret. Directed by Fritz Lang (924519). Ends at 2.10

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SKY ONE

- Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites
6.00 News of the Hour (20002) 7.00 Fun Factory (8530016) 11.30 The World Tomorrow (21977) 12.00 Land in Space (934605)
1.00pm Chopper Squad (58800) 2.00 Hart to Hart (53089) 3.00 Entertainment (537384) 4.00 The Last Convertible (53089) 5.00 The Last Convertible (Five-part mini-series) (54557)
10.00 Weather (5881126) 11.00 Emergency Tonight (80267) 12.00 Skynews
- SKY NEWS**
● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites
News on the hour.
6.00am Sunrise (4661460) 9.30 Dayline

SATELLITE

10.30 That Was the Day (58800)

- 8.00 Travel Destinations (84802) 12.30pm Financial Times: Business Weekly (53966)
1.30 Target (36625) 2.30pm Boxing Report (59257) 3.30 Our World (53627) 4.30 These 5.30pm (536) 6.30 Evening Report (57285) 7.30 Financial Times: Business Weekly (57441)
8.30 Target (36627) 10.30 Rowing Report (74147) 11.30 ABC News (70199) 12.30am Weather (5881126) 1.00pm The Last Convertible (Five-part mini-series) (54557)
1.30 ABCN (865552) 3.30 Target (56123) 3.30 Travel Destinations (03671) 4.30 Target (28294) 5.30 Beyond 2000 (67229)

SKY MOVIES+

- Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites
6.00m Showbiz (5777057)

- 8.00 The Brady Bunch (53491) Susan Dey, Christopher and Maureen (73469)

- 8.00 Miracles Happen (53491) Karl Malden coaches an Olympic hockey team (50762) 12.30pm Twice Upon a Time (1983)

- THE MOVIE CHANNEL**

- Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites

- 6.15m A Walk Affair (1965): An office工艺品 Hold Your Hand (1979) Teenagers travel to New York to see the Beatles (739413)

- 10.15 The Uninvited (1944, bw): Ray Milland and Ruth Hussey are held captive by a mad scientist (Carol Baker) (47032172)

- 2.15 Dark Victory (1939, bw): Bette Davis is dying of a brain tumour (Greta Garbo) (47032172) 3.30 World Sports Challengers (5314151), 10.05 Valkyrie (5633063)

- 11.05 Drag Racing (5619327) 12.00pm Boxing (50636) 2.00am Olympia Club (58471) 11.30 Eurosport: 2.30am European News (56354) 12.00pm Boxing (50636) 2.00am Olympia Club (58471) 12.30am European News (77316)

- SCREENSPORT**

- Via the Astra satellite

- 6.00am Professional Wizards (17235)

- 8.00 The Chevy Sheet: Loads Unloaded (82151) 11.00 Motor World (574487) 12.25pm The River Thames (57170) 11.30 Netbushes (85169) 12.00 WWF: Primetime Wrestling (72617) 1.30pm (536) 2.30pm Boxing Report (57285) 3.30 Financial Times: Business Weekly (57441)

- 4.30 Weekend at Bunting's (1989) Two teenagers have fun with a corpse (842519) 5.15 ASB

- 6.15 Mystery on the Bus (1978) (s) (554441)

- 7.15 The Last Castle (1990) Al Capone (John Goodman) and Ruth Hussey (Diane Venora) fall in love (842519) 8.00 The Last Castle (1990) 9.00 The Last Castle (1990) 10.00 Miracles Happen (53491) 12.30pm Twice Upon a Time (1983)

- THE COMEDY CHANNEL**

- Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites

- 4.00pm The New Three Stooges (52836) 7.30pm The Living Color (8893) 8.00 The Comedy Company (52873) 9.00 The Sunday Comics (46809) 10.00 Midnightrun (42967)

- SKY SPORTS**

- Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites

- 6.30pm Fishing the West (81422) 7.00

- WORLD SERVICE**

- FM Stereo and MW 4.00am Neale James FM

- only until 8.00am 7.00 Gary Doherty with The Weekend Breakfast Show 9.30 Dave Lee Travis

- 10.00 Chris Evans' Radio 2 Breakfast Show 11.00 Nightline's Request Show 12.00 Gary Doherty (FM 8199) only after 12.00 1.00-4.00am Lynn Parsons (FM 8199)

- RADIO 1

- 12.30pm Pick of the Pops: Top 20 charts of 1982, 1979 and 1983 2.30 Sunday Rundown with Chris Evans 3.00 Radio 1 News 4.00 Late Night 5.00 The Compiling Up 5.30pm (70242) 6.00pm Essential Radio 8.00pm Nightline's Request Show 10.00 Gary Doherty (FM 8199) only after 12.00 1.00-4.00am Lynn Parsons (FM 8199)

- Fri 8.00pm Barbara Streisand 7.00 Don Maclean 9.00 John Sache 12.00-7.00pm

- Don Maclean 9.00 John Sache 12.00-7

BBC1

6.35 Open University: Plants: Problems with Water (5864427) 7.00 Maths: L'Hopital's Rule (5734040)
7.25 News and weather: (8294934)
7.30 Hallie Spencer: We Act the Story of Odessa: Puppet fun (t) (3813088)
7.55 Olympic Grandstand: Introduced by Steve Rider and Desmond Lynam from Barcelona. The line-up includes (subject to alteration): Cricket: action from the third day of the final Test from the Oval between England and Pakistan (st); Racing from Haydock Park; live coverage of the John Mallinson Stakes (1.45), the Coral Bookmakers Handicap (2.15) and the Burtonwood Brewery Rose of Lancaster Stakes (2.45). In Barcelona, Canoeing: the last six flatwater finals; Boxing: Harry Carpenter describes the first six finals, from light-flyweight to light-welterweight; Tennis: men's singles final plus the women's doubles final; 4.45 Final Score: comprehensive round-up of the day's sporting news, including the Scottish League football results, plus news of the Charity Shield match between Leeds United and Liverpool at Wembley (563175); 5.00 News and weather (5596750); 5.10 Regional news and weather (2802205); 5.15 Olympic Grandstand. Continued coverage of the action from Barcelona. Includes (subject to alteration): Athletics: Women's high jump final (5.30), men's javelin final (5.55), women's 4 x 100m final (6.00), men's 4 x 100m final (6.20), women's 1500m final (6.50), men's 1500m final (7.15), men's 5000m final (7.40), women's 4 x 400m final (8.15), men's 4 x 400m final (8.40) (22671601); 9.00 News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax Sport and weather (915663); 9.20 Olympic Grandstand. Desmond Lynam rounds up the action on the penultimate day of the Barcelona games, including: Athletics: A review of the evening's nine finals; Hockey: coverage of the men's final (begun at 6.50); Basketball: action from the men's final which began at 9.00; 10.00 Football: highlights of the Charity Shield match between Leeds United and Liverpool from Wembley, plus the conclusion of the rhythmic gymnastics competition and the men's and women's handball finals (30016088).



Gruenes twosome: Vincent Price, Peter Lorre (midnight)

12.00 Film: Tales of Terror (1962) Vincent Price and Peter Lorre star in three stylish helpings of horror based on stories by Edgar Allan Poe. *Morella*: a man spends a quarter of a century mourning his dead wife. *The Black Cat*: an amorous wine-taster's affair is hampered by a black cat. *The Cast of M Valdemar*: an unscrupulous hypnotist empowers an elderly man. With Basil Rathbone and Debra Paget. Directed by Roger Corman. (Ceefax) (5115538); 1.25am Weather (5906489)

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SATELLITE

SKY ONE

• Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites
 6.00 All American Wrestling (5734040) 6.30 Backstage Boy (794465) 7.00 Fun Factory (728059) 12.00 Beyond 2000 (C5040) 1.00pm Riptide (41080) 2.00 Big Hawaii (61427) 3.00 Monday (53359) 4.00 Iron Horse (32856) 5.00 Saturday Night Fever (53358) 6.00 T.J. Hooker (21224) 7.00 Rocker (62359) 8.00 Unsolved Mysteries (68779) 9.00 Cops I (21750) 9.30 Cops II (30697) 10.00 All American Wrestling (74320) 11.00 The Unbreakables (73205) 12.00 X-rayed

SKY NEWS

• Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites
 News 10.00 Sunday (4501088) 9.30 Nightline (71069) 10.30 Our World (73420) 11.00

SKY MOVIES+

• Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites
 6.00 Come Next Spring (34150) 8.00 Come Next Spring (1956) A reformed alcoholic returns home (52779); 10.00 Two Brothers Running (1988); Come Next Spring (1971); 12.00 Wanted: The Perfect Guy. A boy

Davies (49155) 11.30 Newday Tonight (17882) 12.30pm Those Were the Days (23934) 1.30 Holiday Destinations (44653) 2.30 Fashion TV (49863) 3.30 Those Who the Days (51205) 4.30 Our World (6048) 5.00 Live at Five (56858) 6.30 Newsline (56859) 7.00 The Weather Channel (56860) 8.30 Travel Destinations (46137) 10.30 Newline Weekend (61835) 11.30 Fashion (61837) 12.30am The Horse (32856) 1.00 Newline Weekend (91489) 2.30 Travel (60202) 3.30 Target (67847) 4.30 Target (67848) 5.00 Travel (60203) 6.00 Target (67849) 7.00 Target (67850) 8.00 Target (67851) 9.00 Target (67852) 10.00 Target (67853) 11.00 Target (67854)

THE MOVE CHANNEL

• Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites
 6.00 White Christmas (53357) A woman adopts a French refugee (121369) 8.15 Belle of the Yukon (1944) b/w Greta Garbo; Les Tarnes Randolph Scott (1950); 10.15 The Spark in Waiting (1957); See What You've Done (1959); The Karmakaz (1953); But Lancasters travel to Texas (134008) 1.15 The Blue Bird (1940); Farye starring Shirley Temple (62237) 3.20 The Last Picture Show (7007040) 6.35 Masters of the Heart (1990); Jane Seymour has an affair with a teenage prodigy (9459793); 8.15 The Devil's Advocate (1997); Lawyer Linda Put is involved in a difficult case and a passionate romance (6226175); 9.35 Men at Work (1995) Emile Estevez and Charlie Sheen discover a body (60392) 11.40 The Last Picture Show (7007040) 1.15 Sam the Minyan's Hand (1940); b/w Tom Tyler pursues Peggy Moran (613228); 2.20 Reservoir (1986); a woman loses her memory (6226140) 4.05 Gator (1976) Sequel to White Lightning (560777) Ends at 6.00

THE COMEDY CHANNEL

• Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites
 6.30am Fishing the West (60430) 7.00

PLEASE DON'T LOOK AWAY



WITHOUT YOUR HELP I WON'T HAVE A HOME
 Penipa is a little girl who lives in an orphanage in Thailand. The Pataya Orphanage was founded 15 years ago by Father Brennan to care for children without a home, without sight, without hearing, or who are severely handicapped in other ways. The orphanage doesn't just give these little ones a home, it also gives them a better chance in life.

A home, an education, and, most importantly, love have saved Penipa from an awful fate. Your help could stop these being taken away from her again.

Please help Father Brennan in his fight for these children. Every little bit counts. It costs only £15.12 to provide for a child for a month, £181.44 for a whole year.

THANKYOU FOR CARING ENOUGH TO SEND A DONATION

REV. FR. RAYMOND BRENNAN C.S.R., PATTAYA ORPHANAGE TRUST DEPT T8/62 FREEPOST, LONDON, W4 0RZ

To give these children a chance in life, please accept my gift of: £15.12 (£30.24) £60.48 (£181.44) Other _____
 Name _____
 Address _____
 Postcode _____

Reg. Charity No. 286000
 OR CALL 01432 202000 ACCESS & VISA CREDIT CARD DONATIONS.
 Please make cheques/P.O.s payable to P.O.T.

BBC2

6.40 Open University: The Universe Today (5847750) 7.05 Maths: Complex Numbers (5731953) 7.30 Markets and Hierarchies (3804330) 7.55 Education: Taking the Initiative (1528021) 8.20 Spanish Modernisation (8649243) 8.45 The Central Unit Theorem (4621798) 9.35 Light from Semiconductors (9413601) 10.00 Learning from the Box (2368175) 10.25 Electronic Materials (5749359) 10.50 The Model City (1414885) 11.40 Sam's Story (5299392) 12.05 The Quality Assistant (1467779) 12.30 Driven Clean Away (1163330) 12.55 Toulose: Money and Power in Provincial France (4862156) 1.20 Open Communities (6173609) 1.43 Brain and Behaviour: Stress (61324088) 2.10 Soap and Water (58877663) 2.35 Changing Children's Minds (9750509); 3.00 Film: Angels with Dirty Faces (1938) starring James Cagney and Pat O'Brien. Wonderful gangster movie about two friends who grow up in the slums of New York and end up on different sides of the law, one becoming a criminal and the other a priest. Directed by Michael Curtiz (2554798); 4.35 Cricket. The closing session of the third day's play in the final Test from the Oval between England and Pakistan (st); 5.00 News and weather (5596750); 5.10 Regional news and weather (2802205); 5.15 Olympic Grandstand. Continued coverage of the action from Barcelona. Includes (subject to alteration): Athletics: Women's high jump final (5.30), men's javelin final (5.55), women's 4 x 100m final (6.00), men's 4 x 100m final (6.20), women's 1500m final (6.50), men's 1500m final (7.15), men's 5000m final (7.40), women's 4 x 400m final (8.15), men's 4 x 400m final (8.40) (22671601); 9.00 News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax Sport and weather (915663); 9.20 Olympic Grandstand. Desmond Lynam rounds up the action on the penultimate day of the Barcelona games, including: Athletics: A review of the evening's nine finals; Hockey: coverage of the men's final (begun at 6.50); Basketball: action from the men's final which began at 9.00; 10.00 Football: highlights of the Charity Shield match between Leeds United and Liverpool from Wembley, plus the conclusion of the rhythmic gymnastics competition and the men's and women's handball finals (30016088).

9.30 Film: Double Switch (1986). Poor Disney comedy starring George Newbern as the winner of a look-alike contest who switches identities with his rock star idol. Directed by David Greenwell (55772156); 11.10 The Smurfs. Cartoon adventure (t) (1428088); 11.30 The Mountain Bike Show. Magazine programme for enthusiasts of the sport. Featuring the 7up/BMBF National Championships (3525); 12.00 The ITV Chart Show. With The Christians performing their 1987 hit "Ideal World" (t) (89224); 1.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather (7299514) 1.05 LWT News (63588446); 1.10 Cartoon Time. Animated fun (t) (7291802); 1.30 Starting from Scratch. American comedy about a small town vet (8207793); 2.00 McCloud: Showdown at the Edge of the World starring Dennis Weaver. The cowboy marshal courts a model in an attempt to find her missing room-mate (t) (5669137); 3.20 Matlock. Andy Griffith stars as the hayseed lawyer in the American courtroom drama series (5935224); 4.20 WCW Wrestling from the United States (7265866); 5.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather (9458856) 5.05 LWT News (5520717); 5.15 Haggard. Keith Barron stars in the near-the-knuckle adventures of an impoverished 18th-century squire, based on the book by Michael Green. This week square Haggard is captivated by the charms of an actress. (Oracle) (664934); 6.15 The Upper Hand. Joe McGann, Diana Weston and Honor Blackman star in this feeble role-reversal comedy about a female footbalista who keeps house for a female executive. Both Charlie and Caroline are expecting dinner guests (t) (6629243); 7.00 Film: Between Two Worlds (1944, b/w) starring Paul Henreid and Eleanor Parker. Two lovers fleeing Nazi raids awake from a suicide pact to find themselves travelling to an unknown destination. Directed by Edward A. Martin (4312430); 7.30 Quizbowls. Bill Buckley introduces the quiz testing the knowledge of sports journalists from daily newspapers. Today, *The Guardian* takes on *The Independent* (t) (51717); 8.00 Film: Get Smart. Don Adams stars in the spoof spy series (56408); 8.30 The Beverly Hillbillies. Classic comedy series about an oil-rich naive family (25819); 9.00 Film: Between Two Worlds (1944, b/w) starring Paul Henreid and Eleanor Parker. Two lovers fleeing Nazi raids awake from a suicide pact to find themselves travelling to an unknown destination. Directed by Edward A. Martin (4312430); 9.30 Film: Racing from Newmarket. The 3.15, 3.45, 4.15 and 4.45 races (162025); 10.00 Brookside Omnibus (t). (Teletext) (5) (6873392);

11.00 Joyce and the Wheeled Warriors. Animated adventures: (t) (4514205) 6.25 Everlast's Castle. Music and cartoons for the under-fives (t) (6773514) 6.55 Once Upon A Time... Life. The vaccination (t) (5351953) 7.25 Blood, Sweat and Glory. Sporting traditions of North America (t) (5737137) 7.55 Trans World Sport. International sport (9220171) 9.00 News summary (6309069) 9.15 Racing: The Morning Line (5421427); 10.00 Out of Sight. First of a four-part series telling how disabled children became outsiders, rejected by society (t) (3866); 10.30 Australian Rules Football. Action from the 1992 season (84934); 11.30 Quizbowls. Bill Buckley introduces the quiz testing the knowledge of sports journalists from daily newspapers. Today, *The Guardian* takes on *The Independent* (t) (51717); 12.00 Film: Between Two Worlds (1944, b/w) starring Paul Henreid and Eleanor Parker. Two lovers fleeing Nazi raids awake from a suicide pact to find themselves travelling to an unknown destination. Directed by Edward A. Martin (4312430); 12.30 The Beverly Hillbillies. Classic comedy series about an oil-rich naive family (25819); 1.00 Film: Between Two Worlds (1944, b/w) starring Paul Henreid and Eleanor Parker. Two lovers fleeing Nazi raids awake from a suicide pact to find themselves travelling to an unknown destination. Directed by Edward A. Martin (4312430); 1.30 Starting from Scratch. American comedy about a small town vet (8207793); 2.00 McCloud: Showdown at the Edge of the World starring Dennis Weaver. The cowboy marshal courts a model in an attempt to find her missing room-mate (t) (5669137); 3.20 Matlock. Andy Griffith stars as the hayseed lawyer in the American courtroom drama series (5935224); 4.20 WCW Wrestling from the United States (7265866); 5.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather (9458856) 5.05 LWT News (5520717); 5.15 Haggard. Keith Barron stars in the near-the-knuckle adventures of an impoverished 18th-century squire, based on the book by Michael Green. This week square Haggard is captivated by the charms of an actress. (Oracle) (664934); 6.15 The Upper Hand. Joe McGann, Diana Weston and Honor Blackman star in this feeble role-reversal comedy about a female footbalista who keeps house for a female executive. Both Charlie and Caroline are expecting dinner guests (t) (6629243); 7.00 Film: Between Two Worlds (1944, b/w) starring Paul Henreid and Eleanor Parker. Two lovers fleeing Nazi raids awake from a suicide pact to find themselves travelling to an unknown destination. Directed by Edward A. Martin (4312430); 7.30 Quizbowls. Bill Buckley introduces the quiz testing the knowledge of sports journalists from daily newspapers. Today, *The Independent* takes on *The Guardian* (t) (51717); 8.00 Film: Get Smart. Don Adams stars in the spoof spy series (56408); 8.30 The Beverly Hillbillies. Classic comedy series about an oil-rich naive family (25819); 9.00 Film: Between Two Worlds (1944, b/w) starring Paul Henreid and Eleanor Parker. Two lovers fleeing Nazi raids awake from a suicide pact to find themselves travelling to an unknown destination. Directed by Edward A. Martin (4312430); 9.30 Film: Racing from Newmarket. The 3.15, 3.45, 4.15 and 4.45 races (162025); 10.00 Brookside Omnibus (t). (Teletext) (5) (6873392);

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BUSINESS TIMES

SATURDAY AUGUST 8 1992

SPORT
26-32

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

WEEKEND MONEY

Profile

Lawrence Banks is taking a well-earned rest after three months masterminding Robert Fleming's role as global sole co-ordinator of Wellcome Trust's shares in Wellcome. He is no stranger to big deals, having helped finance Eurotunnel and advised Distillers on its three-way fight with the Argyll Group and Guinness Page 17



War paint

As the war of the paint makers draws to a climax, Kalon's increased and final hostile offer, which has been sweetened with a partial cash alternative, has been rejected by Manders..... Page 16

Bank changes

The recession is ravaging the boardrooms of high street banks as badly as their balance sheets as younger and more cautious men replace the boom-mongers of the eighties..... Page 16

With my unused personal allowance I thee endow



Letters

Safety first

A new range of guaranteed investments is emerging to match the more cautious mood of the 1990s. The investment rises if the stock market rises but does not fall if the market does. After a set period, the initial investment will be returned intact even if the market has fallen. Sharon Chilcott of the Bristol & West building society, which runs such a bond, said investors were protected from too much risk but still benefited from market rises. But some charges can be high..... Page 20



Flat fee plan

Scottish Equitable is the first company to tempt potential personal equity plan investors by introducing a drastically reduced initial fee rather than charging a percentage of the plan..... Page 20



Phony bucks

Sterling's strength against the dollar makes buying over the telephone from American mail order houses a very attractive proposition, with savings of up to 50 per cent on most goods..... Page 21

ROBIN MAYES

Recession spawns get rich quick plans

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

A SURGE of "get rich quick" schemes is being offered in mailings to thousands of households as the recession shows no signs of improvement. The 2.7 million registered unemployed are among those being tempted by schemes to make money from starting up new businesses.

The schemes offer £50,000 a year or more for a few hours work a week and claim to be booming despite the recession. Typically, they ask the recipients of their mailings to send money — anything from £20 to £75 — and to recruit up to 100 other members to the organisation.

Most of them are perfectly legal, but their members are likely to find their income falls far short of the sums promised.

The Consumers' Association has warned this week that anyone considering joining a scheme that involves recruiting other people to the "workforce" in order to get bonuses or extra commission should be careful.

Jane Vass, head of Money at CA, said: "Before you part with any money you should know what you are getting and just what you are expected to sell. In practical terms, it may be impossible to make any money."

The schemes often bear a striking similarity to each other when examined, although they have different names.

The CA, the Office of Fair Trading and the trade department, which monitors multi-level selling schemes, receive a steady flow of complaints about them.

Weekend Money, page 19

THE POUND

US dollar
1.9270 (+0.0190)
German mark
2.8275 (same)
Exchange index
92.0 (-0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
1753.3 (-20.9)
FT-SE 100
2350.1 (-27.5)
New York Dow Jones
3356.77 (+16.21)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avg
15518.27 (-40.17)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month Interbank: 10%-10.1%
3-month deposit: 9.9%-9.9%
US Prime Rate: 8%
Federal Funds: 8%-8.5%
3-month Treasury Bills: 3.14-3.12%
30-year bonds: 10.9%-10.9%*

CURRENCIES

London: £1.0280
DM2.266
SF12.5344
Ecu1.36802
Yen245.92
Ecu1.36802
SDR 0.756635
ECU1.36802 ECU1.36802

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$349.65 PM \$349.90
Close \$351.00-\$351.15
New York:
Comex \$350.65-\$351.15*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug) ... \$19.75/bbl (\$19.90)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 139.3 June (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Sterling weakness compounds gloom

Fed intervenes as dollar slides on US jobs data

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE Federal Reserve Bank of New York intervened repeatedly yesterday to support the dollar in foreign exchange markets, after disappointing statistics on American jobs growth sent the American currency reeling against the mark.

Steeding fell briefly in the dollar's wake, touching new lows against the mark, but recovered after the Fed's intervention to close almost unchanged on the day.

American non-farm employment rose by 198,000 in July, after June's revised decline of 63,000. While the July increase was broadly in line with expectations, there had been hopes of a figure as high as 300,000 and also of a much bigger revision to the June figure, which had first been reported as a drop of 120,000.

June's shockingly weak figures set off the dollar's recent slide and prompted a cut in interest rates by the Federal Reserve Board.

America's unemployment rate dipped in July to 7.7 from 7.8 per cent, but the decline was widely dismissed as too low to satisfy the Bush administration's critics or improve confidence among con-

Company failure rate slows down

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE number of company and personal insolvencies levelled off during the second quarter, raising hopes that the surge in company failures since 1989 may at last be starting to peak.

A total of 5,816 firms went into voluntary or compulsory liquidation during the three months to end-June, according to an analysis of official figures by the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC). The figure, which is adjusted for seasonal factors, shows a fall of 19 on the first quarter, but remains 8 per cent higher than the same months of last year.

The number of personal insolvencies at 8,699, was 2 per cent down on the previous quarter, but remains 49 per cent up year on year, according to figures compiled by the Department of Trade and Industry. The DTI figures are made up of compulsory liquidations, where a court has ordered a company to be wound up, and voluntary liquidations.

The BCC said the yearly

Abbey claimants acquire the habit late

By OUR MONEY EDITOR

SINCE Abbey National started trying last month to trace the missing owners of shares worth £100 million, it has been deluged with applications from 150,000 savers and borrowers seeking £265 share handouts and dividends of £20.50.

The response has been far greater than expected and the Abbey and its registrars, Lloyds Bank, have taken on 40 temporary staff to deal with it.

It is more than three years since Abbey National converted from a building society to a bank and shared out its reserves with its members in the form of 100 free shares for all borrowers and savers with

qualifying accounts. The new bank could not, however, give savers to 390,000 borrowers and savers who did not respond to mailings.

Last month, it tried for the seventh and last time, saying that unclaimed shares would be sold. Receipts would be

a new auction of gilt-edged stocks on August 26.

The Central Statistical Office revealed that the current account deficit in 1991 was £1.1 billion bigger than reported; the invisible trade surplus was £900 million lower and Britain briefly became a net international debtor in 1990 for the first time in 40 years.

The new estimate for the 1990 current account deficit of £6.3 billion included a net invisible surplus of only £3.9 billion, against the previously reported £4.8 billion. The CSO said the decline in Britain's invisible earnings was due mainly to new estimates of the private sector's net interest, profits and dividends, which, at £463 million, were £70 million lower than thought. One reason for the lower balance was a sharp downward revision in Britain's net overseas assets.

According to yesterday's figures, Britain owned net overseas assets worth only £16.1 billion at the end of 1991. At the end of 1990, Britain was a net debtor to the tune of £407 million. The earlier estimates of foreign holdings had shown net overseas assets of £29.6 billion at the end of 1990.

The dramatic rundown of Britain's net overseas assets, which were as high as £94.4 billion at the end of 1986, was due to a combination of persistent trade deficits and big falls in stock market and property values in New York and Tokyo, as well as more detailed information about foreign ownership of companies operating in Britain.

The CSO said the new, lower, figures on past invisible earnings were bound to influence the current account estimates published each month. Full details of the impact would be disclosed with the next trade figures, due on August 24.

□ Ford is raising car and commercial vehicle prices by 1.8 per cent from midnight tomorrow. The British market leader blamed the below-inflation rise on increased costs since the beginning of the year.

BCC believes the apparent key K-registration month of August to make the increase but most of the month's sales will have been made by the deadline. Ford and its rivals have been pinning their hopes on a bumper August to boost the flagging car market. But Ford now believes August 1992 sales will reach only about 370,000 — about the same as last time.

The car company chose the key K-registration month of August to make the increase but most of the month's sales will have been made by the deadline. Ford and its rivals have been pinning their hopes on a bumper August to boost the flagging car market.

Mr Wilson said another feature of the coming year would be a cut in the number of disconnections for non-payment of bills by London Electricity.

In the three months since the financial year-end only 148 customers had been cut off, a fall of almost 95 per cent over the same period last year.

Professor Littlechild had also made clear that the standard of each company's customer service would be taken into account in the regulatory review, Mr Wilson added.

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The car company chose

Kalon adds sweetener but Manders still aloof

By JONATHAN PRYNN

KALON Group has sweetened its takeover offer for Manders (Holdings), a rival paint manufacturer, with improved terms to its all share offer and a partial cash alternative.

The market reacted without enthusiasm to the revised and final offer, with shares in both companies falling.

At yesterday's closing prices, the revised paper offer of 17 new Kalon shares for every six Manders shares had, values Manders shares at 253½ p and the group at £93 million. This compares with an original value of the opening offer of £109 million. There is also a

BP accused of illegal moves over payout cut

From PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

A GROUP of American shareholders is taking legal action against British Petroleum, alleging it gave out false and misleading documents that led investors to believe it would not cut its dividend.

The suit was filed late on Thursday in the Manhattan federal court on behalf of a BP profit-sharing plan and investors who bought BP shares between June 25 and August 6. It names the company, Lord Asherton, its chairman, and David Simon, chief executive.

BP stunned the stock market on Thursday by halving its quarterly dividend, axing 11,500 jobs and spending £1 billion on restructuring. The American shareholders claim BP issued a statement on the resignation of Robert Horton, its former chairman, saying that management change would not result in any "significant changes". The suit alleges BP also said the dividend would remain the same.

The suit says the company either knew or should have known on June 25 that it was going to cut the dividend.

BP in London last night confirmed that shareholders in the United States had filed a legal suit against the company, but was not willing to elaborate any further.

The company said: "Our position is we really have nothing to say. We have to examine and study the suit before we can say anything; and anything we have to say about it will be said in court. We have no comment at this time."

MAJOR CHANGES

FALLS:	
De La Rue	564p (-15p)
ADT	410p (-18p)
Watson & Phil	229p (-11p)
Low (Wm)	188p (-44p)
Northern Foods	520p (-21p)
MAM	303p (-10p)
Henderson Admin	578p (-20p)
Bundfield	148p (-18p)
WH Smith A'	388p (-14p)
Liberty	570p (-18p)
Kingfisher	427p (-13p)

Closing Prices Page 23

RECENT ISSUES

	-1		
Kenwood App 10p (285)	284	...	
Klwort Endowment Pcy	100	-1	
Quality Care Hms (136)	150	...	
Taunton Cider 10p	160	...	
Telegraph (25)	284	...	
			RIGHTS ISSUES
Birkby n/p (100)	1	...	
Caverdale 1p n/p (6)	2	...	
Hobson Sp n/p (5)	4	...	
Jeyes Group 5p n/p (385)	63	...	

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Personal Finance editor Diana Wright picks out the best places for your money. Business - The Sunday Times tomorrow



European foothold: Henlys' Robert Wood, left, and Michael Doherty will gain comfort from the deal with Volvo

Henlys in £75m bus agreement with Volvo

By JON ASHWORTH

HENLYS Group, the motor trader and coach manufacturer fighting a hostile £26.5 million bid from T Cowie, the rival car dealership group, has linked up with Volvo, Europe's second-largest bus maker, in a trading agreement worth £75 million in sales.

Analysts said the revised offer would probably be enough to win the day, given Kalon's superior track record in recent years. The argument for merger looks reasonably compelling," Andrew Benson, a chemicals analyst at BZW, said. "It would create a very strong company that would have access to considerably more opportunities than either company would have alone."

The merged group would have 23 per cent of the UK decorative paints market and Kalon has claimed that cost savings would contribute more than £5 million to combined pre-tax profits. Kalon is seen as having the stronger industrial strategy because of its position as a major supplier of own-brand paints for the DIY market.

Mike Hennessy, group managing director of Kalon, said: "Kalon's increased ordinary offer fully values Manders and offer Manders' ordinary shareholders a generous share in the enlarged group, and in merger benefits in excess of £5 million per annum. Manders' management now accepts Kalon's view of the right strategy for Manders, but lacks the credibility to be entrusted with its implementation." He claimed that net investment of £40 million in Manders trading businesses between 1988 and 1991 had failed to bear fruit for shareholders.

Robert Wood, chief executive of Henlys, said the company had been seeking an opportunity to expand into new markets. "Plaxton has not sold outside the UK before and we needed export business. Volvo will do our marketing for us, and the deal underpins their place in the UK," Mr Wood was previously general manager of Volvo Truck and Bus (GB).

Mr Wood and Michael Doherty, chairman, will draw comfort from the latest deal, the second to be signed by Henlys in less than a fortnight. Last week, the company announced it had secured orders for 370 coaches and buses worth £17 million, giving a "virtually full" order book for 1992. The 700-strong workforce at Scarborough have accepted a two-year pay freeze and given up rights to private health insurance as part of an ongoing cost-cutting programme.

Steps to streamline Henlys, including the closure of four out of five factories, helped drive the company £6.8 million into the red last year.

Cowie has criticised Plaxton's performance but denies any plans to sell or close the business should it win control.

Hartwell, the motor trader bought in 1990 by the Saudi Arabian Jameel Group, was forced to launch the bid this week, at the prevailing market price of 17.5p for each Trimoco share, when it con-

Caution the key as new faces take over bank boardrooms

Neil Bennett

reports on
the management
shake-up in
the banking
industry

THE recession is ravaging the banks' boardrooms as badly as their balance sheets. In the past two weeks, a host of new faces has presented the lenders' interim figures, which contained a punishing £2.66 billion in bad debt provisions. Many of the directors who masterminded the rapid expansion in the late 1980s are being replaced by a younger, and it is hoped more cautious, generation.

The results season was the swansong for two of the industry's most illustrious chairmen but a particularly bitter pill for Sir John Quinton, head of Barclays, who leaves at the end of the year.

Sir John had the task of announcing a record £1.07 billion bad debt provision and after-tax losses of £59 million. The results sent Barclays to the bottom of the banks' profit league, below even Midland.

In the late eighties, Sir John led Barclays' fight to recapture its position as Britain's largest bank, after it was briefly overtaken by National Westminster. He succeeded, assisted by a £923 million rights issue. Unfortunately, many of the loans from that period are going sour, and Sir John admits the bank should have turned down up to a third of its lending.

Barclays, however, has not looked far for a successor. Andrew Buxton, managing director since 1988, is moving

up a rung, but promising to monitor the bank's risk more effectively. The only other newish face in a familiar line-up is Peter Wood, the youthful finance director, who replaced Brian Pearce last year when he moved across to Midland.

Sir Jeremy Morse is at least bowing out on a high note, with Lloyds confirming as Britain's most profitable bank.

With 15 years in the hot seat, he has survived massive Third World debt provisions and two failed bank acquisitions.

Sir Jeremy is making way for Sir Robin Ibbot, two years his senior, although many believe that Sir David Walker, former head of the Securities and Investments Board and a deputy chairman, will soon be offered the top job.

Brian Pitman, chief executive, is staying until 1995, three years beyond the bank's normal retirement age.

The industry shake-up is most apparent at National

Westminster and Midland. At NatWest, two of the top three are new. Derek Wanless, 44, is one of the youngest men ever to run a big British bank and a role model for the young managers muscling their way to the top in the industry. His sharp style contrasts with Tom Frost, his predecessor, who stepped down in March.

By his side is Richard Goetz, the new American finance director. They make

Lord Alexander of Weedon, the chairman, seem like an old-timer, even though he has only been with the bank for three-and-a-half years.

At Midland, the biggest change is one of ownership, which is ushering Hongkong and Shanghai bankers into head office. Sir Peter Wallers, chairman, and Brian Pearce, chief executive, arrived only last spring but have already witnessed more changes than a chameleon in a kaleidoscope. The most recent departures have been Gene Lockhart, head of retail banking, and George Loudon, Midland Montagu chief. Meanwhile, Keith Whitson, a rising star in the Hongkong hierarchy, becomes deputy chief executive.

With new names on doors and new faces in annual reports, banks feel they are poised to leave the bad old days behind for good. Shareholders will have to wait to see if these new teams can deliver.



Quinton: bitter results pill



Frost: ex-NatWest chief

Trimoco chief rejects Hartwell bid

By MARTIN WALLER

ROGER Smith, chairman of Trimoco, the motor dealer under Hartwell's £25.9 million offer from Hartwell, has urged investors not to accept the cash bid.

Hartwell, the motor trader bought in 1990 by the Saudi Arabian Jameel Group, was forced to launch the bid this week, at the prevailing market price of 17.5p for each Trimoco share, when it con-

tinued loan stock to push its holding to 39.4 per cent. The City code on takeovers requires holders of 30 per cent or more of any quoted company to make a formal bid. An offer document for the ordinary shares and the rest of the convertible loan stock is expected next week.

Trimoco shares rose 1p to 19p yesterday as the market

anticipated a takeover struggle. Mr Smith said the terms of the "unsolicited and uninvited" offer significantly undervalue Trimoco and will not be recommended to shareholders.

Further advice will be issued once the formal offer document has been seen by Trimoco and its adviser, NM Rothschild.

will have a half-share and Rosnyastolzorg, a Russian concern, the other half. In the spring of 1994 it will begin producing eight million gallons of ice-cream a year.

Russian demand for ice-cream may be thought by the unknowing to be only marginally greater than the Arabs' desire for sunray lamps, but in fact the populace loves the stuff. "A Russian's constitution is based on vodka and ice-cream," they tell me," said Mr Hales.

Can the locals afford ice-cream, when they don't have enough bread or meat? At 70 roubles a scoop even the Sultan of Brunei would think twice if he had to pay at the official rate of exchange, which would imply between \$40 and \$50. At black market rates, however, customers effectively pay 50p a scoop. Mr Hales,

who opened the Baskin-Robbins flagship store on St Petersburg's main street, Nevsky Prospect, while he was there, and another in Novgorod, says that for the time being the Russian operation will continue importing ice-cream from America.

"Russian ice-cream is very good, but they don't have the range of flavours that we offer. It can be a little watery, but this is a weakness in the milk production process."

This comes down, it seems, to basic disciplines such as the timing of a bull's mating with the cows, so Allied has signed an agreement with milk producers in the Russo region to improve their technology in return for supplies.

"We want to put our flagships in all over eastern Europe," says Mr Hales.

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Davies & Newman shares hit low

SHARES in Davies & Newman, owner of the Dan Air airline, hit another new low since the group was refinanced almost two years ago when they fell 2p to 12p, prompting David James, chairman, to say it was too early to consider a further call on shareholders' cash.

Mr James said he was conducting a routine review of finances to ensure the company would survive through the next two springs, the traditional low points of airlines' finances, and he had various initiatives to consider during the next few months to shore up the cash position. He could not rule out an eventual call on shareholders' money, but said the company was performing to budget within cash limits, and difficult conditions expected for the travel industry in the second half of the year were fully allowed for.

Aegis moves to Paris

AEGIS, the holding company of Carat, a pan-European media buying group, is raising £19.75 million in convertible loan stock as part of a reorganisation that includes moving senior managers from London to Paris. Peter Scott, chairman and chief executive, will not go and leaves Aegis on September 15. Frank Law takes over as chairman and Charles Hochman as chief executive. Aegis is cutting its interim dividend from 2.75p to 1.375p after earning pre-tax profits of £13.5 million for the six months to June 30, down from £31.2 million last year.

Tempus, page 17

SEET cuts loss

SEET, the Edinburgh textiles group, almost halved its pre-tax loss from £1.25 million to £630,000, in the year ended April 30, but is again passing the dividend. SEET received \$350,000 from the original vendors of Homemaker, a chain of bedlinen and bathlinen shops based in Detroit, as well as \$150,000 from Homemaker in settlement of an earlier dispute. A further \$900,000 over the next four years is possible. Its action against the investigating accountants continues. All operating companies are trading at a more profitable level compared with this time last year.

Aberfoyle shares halted

SHARES in Aberfoyle Holdings, the Zimbabwean trading group that was the focus of a boardroom battle last year, were suspended at 2½ p pending a financial reconstruction. The directors are seeking the consent of shareholders and creditors to have the company placed in administration, after an approach by investors who are proposing a reconstruction of the share capital and debt. Aberfoyle has insufficient funds to enable it to continue to trade. The new investors have advanced sufficient funds to cover administration costs.

Wholesale Fittings dips

PRESSURE on trading margins and "an abnormally high level of bad debts" have depressed profits at Wholesale Fittings, the electrical products distributor, during the year to end-April. Taxable profits were down 41 per cent, from £4.3 million to £2.5 million. Sales dropped marginally from £63.3 million to £62.2 million. The final payout has been reduced from 13.39p to 8.47p, making a total of 11.7p (£6.62p) for the year. Earnings per share fell from 19.7p to 11.7p. Net cash stood

BUSINESS PROFILE: Lawrence Banks

A healthy appetite for the cream on the scone

William Kay finds the Wellcome float mastermind took the wrong tube and nearly didn't take up merchant banking

Lawrence Banks is taking a holiday from the limelight. For the past three months he has masterminded Robert Fleming & Co's role as global co-ordinator of the £2.16 billion sale of Wellcome Trust's shares in Wellcome, the pharmaceutical group.

Not only was it the biggest placing of its kind this year, but the slide in world stock markets ensured it was easily the most difficult.

Banks was at the centre of a web of 30 banks and advisers that were grappling with a problem that kept threatening to stiffer out of reach until almost the last day.

"We've been a bit frenetic," he says in that understated way English battlefield generals have had since Agincourt, as he sits back in one of the classically-furnished dining rooms Fleming has built itself round the now-obligatory atrium, all glass and foliage. Although only 54, he has an engagingly pre-war air about him. He is well built, with a resonant voice and a fondness for big cigars, good food and fine wine. "Wellcome was the cream on the scene of our ongoing business," he adds expansively. "Corporate finance attracts people who enjoy being the cream on the scene. They work best at 110 per cent of capacity. When they aren't stretched everyone starts bickering and it degenerates into a nasty series of nursery squabbles over why there isn't any business. Then usually people do the wrong things, in spades."

In that laid-back way of his, born of a well-off family and formative years at Rugby and Oxford, Banks has strong views about people who do the wrong things. Bluntly, he believes the City is dividing into those he feels can do business with, and those he can't.

Early on in his career at Fleming, he acted for Robert Maxwell in the bouncing Czech's ill-fated attempt to merge with the American Leasco. And, less than a year after he became head of the firm's corporate finance department, he found himself advising Distillers in the drinks company's now-notorious three-way struggle with Argyll Group

and Guinness, which was advised by Morgan Grenfell.

"I had little. I'm happy to say, to do with Ernest Saunders," he remarks, "but rather a lot to do with Morgans. I must say, I was very shaken by the conduct on the other side of that particular fence. There were a number of suggestions made to us which, if not illegal, were clearly immoral."

So pervasive was the Morgan

'The City is dividing into those I feel I can do business with, and those I feel I cannot'



Battle over: Lawrence Banks winds down with some archery practice at his Herefordshire home

you can imagine to float a deal of that size, and in the end he took the vital decision to set the £8 million share price. It was brave, and gave the initiative to the sellers.

Banks's wife, Liz, and Christopher Bland, LWT chairman and one of his oldest friends, attest to his low-boiling point and fiery temper.

"He's a very clear thinker," says Liz. "He has an electric mind, never forgets anything, and always gets to the point with lightning speed. He can blow off steam and leave everyone shattered, then carry on as if nothing had happened."

"He is very bright, deceptively so," adds Bland, who met Banks at Oxford, "but you rapidly realise that this is a very clever chap." Banks and Bland have jured one another into good works. Banks persuaded Bland to chair Life Sciences International, a Fleming-

sponsored company making hospital laboratory equipment.

As chairman of Hammersmith Special Health Authority, Bland in return invited Banks into being chairman of the Council of the Royal Postgraduate Medical School at Hammersmith, which is negotiating with the Wellcome trustees for a £4 million investment in a new building. "So I was a beneficiary of, as well as an adviser to, the Wellcome share sale," Banks chuckles.

He has had considerable pleasure out of having the chance to meet a lot of senior people in the medical industry. "You really do see the end-result of your endeavours as a merchant banker," Banks believes successful merchant bankers should be extrovert, gregarious, intellectually curious, with a touch

of the amateur psychologist. Above all, self-starters with a good feel for arithmetic.

"Merchant banking tactics are quite challenging intellectually," he points out. "It is interesting to figure out how you can structure something to the best advantage. The poker game is intriguing and fun, because it stretches your imagination and you can ask interesting and novel questions and look at things in a whole series of different ways."

It would be peculiar if he were to lock all that mental equipment away in his desk every evening before he went home. So it is hardly surprising the Banks have lively debates from time to time — mainly, it seems, over the garden. It is no ordinary garden. Hergest Croft, Kington, Herefordshire, has been in the Banks family for four genera-

tions. It covers 50 acres, and is so renowned for its trees, rhododendrons and azaleas that it needs a staff of six and charges 15,000 people a year £2 a time to visit.

As Liz is a landscape architect,

she is not short on well-founded

opinions about the garden.

"He is a

very fine plantsman," she concedes, "but I deal more with the gardeners and because I design professionally I tend to take more care of that side of things."

The garden has been a constant

feature of Banks's life. He was brought up in Cheshire, about 100 miles from Hergest Croft. But his earliest memories are of wartime, seeing Liverpool docks ablaze and a land mine exploding in the field across from his home.

After five years of misery at a cold

and draughty prep school on the Sussex coast, and a more pleasant

spell at Rugby, Banks spent his

national service in the Royal Navy.

"I loved it," he says. "I'm short-

sighted in one eye, but if I hadn't

had a place at Oxford I think I

would have stayed in. I spent the

time mostly in the North Sea and

Bay of Biscay." He went up to

Christ Church, arguably Oxford's

most stylish and patrician college.

He was taught

economics by Sir

Roy Harrod, his-

tory and politics

by Lord

Blake.

While Peter Jay

was soaring to

wards his effor-

less first,

Banks

organised

the

college ball and

collected, as he

puts it, "an effort-

less second". But

he made a special

study of the ethics of Immanuel

Kant, which live him yet. "The

bit that still influences me enor-

mously is the one that says you have

a duty to treat all men as ends, and

not as means," Banks says. "That is

something I've always tried to live

up to — no doubt, very

unsuccessfully at times. It's one of

the things I remember when I need

to test what I'm doing."

When he was casting around for

a career, his father urged him not to

go into banking. Until the early

years of this century the family had

been true to their name, but his

father had broken the mould by

joining ICI, becoming personnel

director.

"He didn't want his son going

back into banking," Banks says,

"so, with the usual disregard for

parental advice, I thought that's

what I'd better go into."

A friend of his at Oxford was the

godson of John Thompson, then

chairman of Barclays. Thompson

pointed him towards Fleming where David Roberts, one of the directors, was also on the ICI board.

Even those introductions may not have got him the job had he turned up for his interview half an hour late — as he thought he had, after taking an underground train going in the wrong direction.

"I woke up at Putney, and thought Christ, I've blown this one. I got on the right train, got on to the Monument, raced up Gracechurch Street and into Bishopsgate, rushed into Flemings and got on to the directors' floor at five to ten. I told the rather pretty girl on the reception desk that I was terribly sorry, but I was half an hour late. She said: 'But I have you down for ten o'clock. I've been here ever since.'

By the time he was 25 Banks was managing £100 million, in the form of Save & Prosper's financial unit trusts. That took him to New York, because at that time, in 1964, unit trusts were for the first time permitted to invest overseas. After five years setting up and running the New York office, he returned to be investment director of Save & Prosper for a period covering the stock market and property crash of 1974. "I saw all

that as a fairly major institutional investor," he says. "I also had a really fascinating experience: I was helping to run quite a big business, which is something that only few of us at that time had had the opportunity to do, because there weren't any big businesses in the City at that time." He has since wondered whether he ought to have left Flemings to run his own firm, but always turned his back on the idea.

"There is a feeling in the City that we get a lot more fun out of what we do than what our clients do," Banks says. "Industry is of huge importance to the country, but it does not give me my kicks. If I was good with my hands, which I'm not, I would get endless pleasure from making a craft product. But I don't take any pleasure in mass production."

For the moment he is taking pleasure in a job well done at Wellcome, in which the ethics of Kant sometimes come second to one of W.C. Fields's one-liners — that a Smith & Wesson beats four aces. "We've had a few Smith and Wessons around," he says, "but it rather appears that the four aces have won, which is nice."

Matthew Bond

Coincidences that could echo through the dinner parties of the nineties



Sir John steps down at the end of this year.

But while Sir John was definitely in the Treasury's bad books for incorrect thinking on economic prospects, his thoughts on how to revive the housing market were more warmly received — largely because he didn't have any. In a week that saw suggestions on how to cure the house market's ills flowing as bountifully as increased property write-downs, it was a refreshing change, especially for the Treasury bodes left with their backs against the wall rather than against the filo.

But despite all the evidence, the pundits have been queuing up to tell us that the road to economic recovery is an improved housing market, with progress driven by that other stalwart of the endangered species list, the first-time buyer.

This latter point strikes me as curious. For, as I recall, first-time buying involves giving someone else all your hard-earned cash, borrowing as much as you can, possibly afford and then doing nothing and, more importantly, spending nothing for the next two years. If that's an engine of recovery, I'm Sir John.

Quinton. In their relentless efforts to bolster battered balance sheets — I mean stimulate the housing market — no fiscal or financial incentive was left unpromoted by the mortgage providers and — lest it slip the Treasury's mind again — savings receiving industry.

If you thought dinner party conversation of the middle eighties left a little to be desired (really, £30,000 in six weeks, how interesting...), wait for the middle nineties.

"Of course, we deliberately stayed out of the market until mortgage interest relief and the stamp duty threshold were doubled. And then, just when poor old Camilla lost her job, they brought in that mortgage benefit scheme. Stroke of luck, really. But what really saved us, of course, was John Major's resignation decision to devalue the pound. Inflation took off and took house prices with it. Just confirmed what I've always said — you can't go wrong with property. Have I told you about our little place in France?"

Either you give up having dinner parties or make sure that the noisy beneficiaries of the largesse sought by the likes of National Westminster Bank and the Halifax and Woolwich building societies sit next to people who live in rented property. They'll get on like a house on fire — one guess whose.

The only thing that could make such encounters worse is if Abbey National succeeds in getting losses on house sales allowable against income tax. "What with the rollover losses and Miras, not to mention our Tessas and Peps, we've basically given up income tax as a family."

UNILEVER continues to be one of the better counter-cyclical plays, even among food and consumer product manufacturers, which are regarded as more immune than most from recession. Most people eat and wash whatever the economic trends, and meanwhile, Unilever uses the healthy cash flow to pay off debts at an impressive rate.

Pre-tax profits rose 10 per cent to £988 million in the first half to end-June, with a 14 per cent increase to £511 million in the second quarter, which sent the shares up 12p to 953p even in yesterday's soggy market.

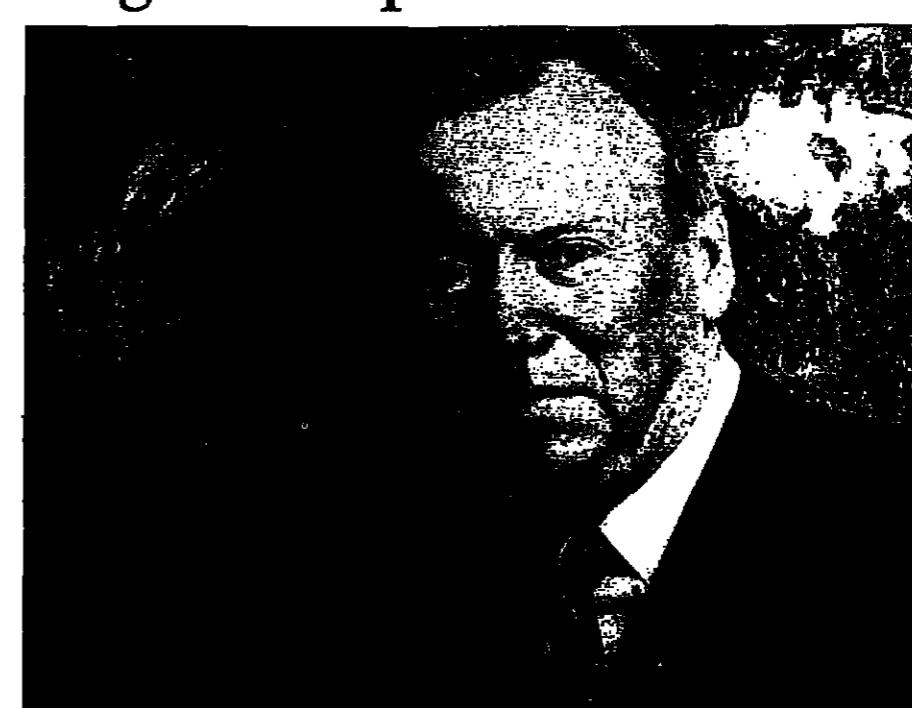
A second-quarter operating profit increase of 6 per cent compared with a 2 per cent fall in the first quarter, when the pre-tax improvement came entirely from the interest line.

Unilever reduced debts by £600 million over the year to end-June to £1.5 billion at average exchange rates. £100 million thereof in the last three months when cash is traditionally tight. This suggests a gearing level of just 20 per cent at the year-end and single figures by the end of 1993, if the group does not take advantage of falling asset prices to make further purchases. If it does, analysts say the most likely area is the American food sector, where it remains under-represented, despite commanding positions in the margarine, tea and sauces markets.

The group said all its main product areas contributed to a 4 per cent rise in sales in the first half, with ice cream and personal products standing out. Europe, depressed by heavier marketing spend in the first three months, managed an encouraging 5 per cent operating profit rise in the second quarter. Although the half year showed a 4 per cent fall, the figures allayed market concern of a continuing downturn and suggested the embattled European consumer can eventually be tempted back into the shops.

TEMPOS

Bright programme spins Unilever profits higher despite recession



Confident: Michael Perry, the new Unilever chairman, expects further progress

A confident statement by Michael Perry, the new chairman, suggested that despite no real evidence of an upturn in most markets, further progress should be possible. In the second half, further debt reductions and margin enhancement should push pre-tax profits ahead to just below £2 billion, putting the shares on a forward multiple of a little more than 14 and on to brokers' lists of firms held.

Alice might be further confused by the group's planned move of operating managers from London to Paris. As a result, Aegis no longer falls within the jurisdiction of the Takeover Code. The company says it intends to ensure British minority shareholders' rights.

Alice would also note that there is a hybrid rights issue of 9.875 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock to raise £19.75 million. With the Aegis share price down from 217p last October to 41p now — down 5p on the announcements — an ordinary

rights issue could have proved difficult. There is also a rescheduling of deferred payments relating to earlier acquisitions.

There is a shuffle of top management, but with European display advertising markets remaining weak, it will be a slow crawl before previous profit levels of 1990, when £67.8 million pre-tax was recorded, are challenged.

The profile of share ownership is essentially French and American, and £3.

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- SCOTTISH EQUITABLE FIRST 20
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- BUYING IN THE US — BY PHONE 21

WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 8 1992

Edited by Lindsay Cook

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The weasel words of the financial advertising industry came under Consumers' Association scrutiny this week and failed miserably. National Savings, building societies, life companies and investment groups are all criticised for their careless use of superlatives when selling their products.

National Savings, which has been doing particularly well at the expense of building societies this year, is criticised for its Capital Bonds advertising campaign. The slogan "interest with nothing taken off first for tax," reminiscent of claims for wholesome bread, is untrue. Taxpayers have to pay tax in the year the interest is credited to them, but cannot get at the income for five years. The slogan was withdrawn.

Over at Abbey Life a claim that investors will get "tax-free cash" from their insurance bond is questioned. After all, while the individual will not have to pay any more tax, that is only because the life company has already paid a tax bill on the investment. In most cases, the capital gains tax paid by the company

would be more than the individual would have had to pay with a similar gain on other investments. The company is not alone in making such claims but Lauro has yet to straighten out the industry on that point. Bonds are still sold inappropriately to people who are unlikely ever to have to pay capital gains tax.

Insurance companies have a reassuring turn of phrase when selling. "Maximum security" and "access to your money at any time" are two that CA objected to in an advertisement from Britannic Assurance. In the small print, investors are advised that they will get a very low return if they cash in during the first few years and can only be certain that their return will not be less than minus 5 per cent at the end of five years if the bond is cashed in.

Two tables in advertisements ap-

peared to name two different building societies as providing the best performing Tessas in 1991. The reason was that the Britannia was only counting the top ten building societies while the Yorkshire, the twelfth largest, looked at the top 13 societies and all the big banks. Britannia also excluded bonuses which made a difference to the Halifax's performance as paid 1.5 per cent at the end of the first year. It also failed to mention that unlike any of the other Tessas in the table, no interest could be drawn from the account and the early closure penalties were the second highest.

The Portman's fixed-rate mort-

gage also fell foul of CA. It gave a cast-iron guarantee that the rate would not only be fixed but would remain extremely competitive. Nobody can give the latter guarantee, not even the Chancellor of the Exchequer. What fixed mortgages offer is certainty that payments will not go up. Later fixed rate or variable mortgage offers can easily undercut them if interest rates fall.

Of course, no one really expects financial organisations to emphasise the poor points and hide the virtues of their products. The Consumers' Association's research is still a val-

uable reminder of how far adrift some institutions are when a sale is in sight. It is because of this that independent, unbiased guidance is so important for investors.

Round-up time

Advertisements for mortgages have been cleaned up over the last couple of years but brokers are still a law unto themselves. This week John Butterill MP called for tighter regulation of high street mortgage brokers. How they came to escape the regulation of the Financial Services Act mystifies most regulators. But they do. Advice on mortgages currently slips between the Consumer Credit Act, which covers loans up to £15,000, and the Financial Services Act. The latter only applies to salesmen who give advice on investments.

Too many people have been ad-

vised by mortgage brokers to cancel one endowment and take out a new one or to borrow against their home to invest in a bond, exposing themselves to the risk of market losses and rising interest rates. Now is the time to bring mortgage brokers under greater control, as regulators struggle to form a one-stop regulatory system for private investors from two whole regulators and bits of a third.

Many brokers are already members of the Fimbra but it is always the least honourable who shy away from scrutiny. The firms offering cheap mortgage rates from which few if any customers actually get the benefit need to be chased out of business by regulators with teeth.

Those who operate properly, giving good advice on loans available and methods of payment, offer a valuable service in an increasingly complicated housing market. It is no longer easy for housebuyers — should there be any out there — to fathom which mortgage is likely to be best for them. These brokers should be leading the campaign to clean up the rest.

Cash chain letters and 'pyramid selling' schemes are returning to tempt the unsophisticated

Get rich quick merchants are back in town

Lindsay Cook goes on the trail of sudden riches only to find the promoters are curiously silent

"THROW this away and you are throwing away £1,000 a week!" proclaims a leaflet from IM Consultants, before adding that its consumer research department has identified the recipient as an "active business opportunity seeker."

It is one of a growing number of schemes promising riches to people willing to send money to the companies offering the schemes and also to persuade their friends to part with their money.

Strict rules on earnings claims for multi-level selling schemes are monitored by the trade department. Brochures should detail precisely the nature of the business, so potential members can assess them before sending money.

IM Consultants' leaflet asks for a standing order for £50 a month for a year to be paid into the company's account at National Westminster Bank in Barnsley. "Yes I do like the idea of having the opportunity to earn up to £60,000 per year on The Key Plan. Please rush me the first instalment as soon as my bank standing order application has been processed."

The Key Plaza is described as a part-time business which anyone with common sense can run from the comfort of their home. "It requires very little work and very little capital because the system has been so beautifully refined as a result of many years of research and development."

The poorly-produced sales pitch continues that the work involved is "no more than very straightforward office work like packing lightweight items and mailing them. Probably the most strenuous part intellectually will be keeping a record of your earnings."

'Probably the most strenuous part intellectually will be keeping a record of your earnings'

fering this opportunity to average people, but rather a very limited number of carefully selected people throughout the business opportunity community, of which you are one." Those in doubt are also told they only have seven days to join and are reminded that the offer is limited to 100 places for the issue. "So we are afraid it will be a case of first come first served and there is a time limit for applications."

Those tempted by the scheme are given a testimonial by CMC Consultants of Exe-

ter. Charles Cust of CMC Consultants says that within 10 days of entering the business he earned £3,196.80. Unlike IM Consultants this firm is listed by British Telecom. But there is only a recorded message of a man saying he does verify the endorsement of the Key Plan. It also gives a portable telephone number but no calls could be connected over a two-week period.

Anyone feeling sceptical about the scheme by this time is reassured: "As professional business people ourselves we expect and understand the scepticism with which an offer like this is often met. We realise a certain amount of scepticism is a healthy defence in the hard world of business. However, it is very important that scepticism does not completely take over to the point where it is always used as an excuse for not considering a business opportunity carefully. The sad fact is that the average person does this, which is why we wouldn't even consider of

sending off my standing order, all I have to show for the £50 is a letter saying: 'We are pleased to inform you that we have been able to accept your application,' a slim guide to setting up a business, and guidance on selling the scheme to others.

IM Consultants does not give a full address — only a Freepost number and post code. Nor does it give the name of a West End solicitor's stamp, had no address for Geoff Sharp, its author, and only one of the four addresses to which money should be sent had a telephone number. It was ex-directory.

Mr Sharp says in the letter he was previously sole owner of Sharps Bedroom Design, a national company. This is now part of Hawley Group, he says, not mentioning Hawley became ADT in February 1988 and disposed of Sharps in 1986. Mr Sharp does not give a current address.

And while he has treated "get rich quick schemes" with contempt in the past, he has changed his mind. "I genuinely believe I will earn as much money from this, within the next few months, than from all the years I owned Sharps Bedroom Design." It adds: "The vast profits that can be made can only happen if people you introduce are successful. That's the beauty of it. I want you to make money! If you do, then so do I." By mailing only 200 people, participants can make more than £7,750 it says, even if only three in a hundred respond. The cost to the individual is £46 and four hours' time. To

earn the money, people send £5 to four addresses and put their own name at the top of the list, deleting the fourth name. He or she is "already on the way to the bank," it says.

The endorsements are fantastic. A Charles Fairchild claims that by sending out

1,000 mailings he received £89,000. He plans to send 15,000 next time. Mary Rockland found her letterbox became so overloaded that she had to "start collecting my post from the postman through the window." She expects to make more money this year than in

any 10 years in her life. The package includes a personal note from Edward Green, the originator of the plan. He says he will not make any money because he has retired after sending out 16,000 letter packets, making £4 million.

Excel Prestige International runs its own money-making scheme. A glossy brochure gives an 0891 telephone number costing 48p a minute in working hours and 36p off peak. It sells the new-tech cooperative movement. "Thanks to the immense power of present day computer technology, a century-old principle is reborn and harnessed to produce enormous dividends which you can share in."

Excel's sequential dividend plan is based on rising membership. "Your membership allows you access to a tunnel. As other members join behind you, you are pushed forward through the tunnel, emerging to collect your share from the dividend fund." The member enters a second and a third tunnel. By passing through each complete dividend cycle £7,840 can be earned. Membership costs £75 and bro-

chures to recruit other members cost £30 for 500 and promotional tapes £1.99 each.

Members are told they can climb the Excel prestige ladder of success. Three more members have to be recruited to Excel to become an executive accolade member. A further 12 new members bring silver membership and a free MG Metro Turbo. Ten more gold membership is achieved plus a Ford RS 2000. The ultimate accolade is platinum membership complete with a top of the range Mercedes or BMW. It was not possible to question the Excel Prestige scheme and bonus bonds system. The telephones are solidly engaged and the fax machine does not take messages.

Jane Vass, head of money research at the Consumers' Association, warned that even with valid multi-level marketing schemes, potential members had to be aware that they would have to introduce a lot of people before they made any money. "They often have seven levels before a bonus is earned. It can be a theoretical rather than a practical bonus."



IM Consultants' banker: NatWest, Barnsley, where the account could not be confirmed but staff could forward letters

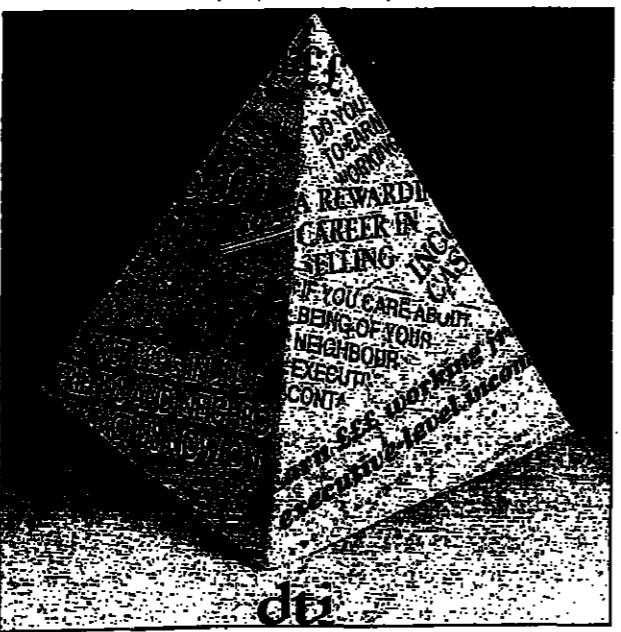
Still just a pyramid by any other name

PYRAMID selling was not outlawed in the sixties or seventies as is commonly thought, but it has changed its name. As late as 1989, regulations on pyramid selling became law and the trade department now issues guidelines for potential sellers and people wanting to set up multi-level selling companies or network marketing organisations — the new names for pyramid selling. (Lindsay Cook writes).

Under these schemes, participants buy goods or services from a company and then sell them to the general public. They can also make money by recruiting new participants, from commission on the sales of these other participants and by providing training or other services to other participants.

Multi-Level Selling Schemes: A Guide to the Pyramid Selling Schemes Legislation says that circulars and prospectuses indicating the financial benefits which can be obtained from a scheme must show the date on which the scheme started in Britain as well as the name and address of the promoter. A description of the goods or services covered by the scheme should be included, as should a statutory warning.

This should say: "Do not be misled by claims that high earnings are easily achieved" and must suggest independent legal advice be taken



Warning sign on the cover of the DTI brochure

before signing a contract. If earnings claims are made, they must be accompanied by the statement: "The figures shown do not represent any automatic earnings. Actual earnings will depend on time and effort spent on the business and the total number of participants in the scheme."

The trade department warns potential sellers to beware of any scheme which asks for money for goods or services before they have signed contracts. This is illegal. It also points out that the

maximum investment at the outset should be £75.

The more satisfactory schemes are based on people selling the goods or services, not just on recruiting other people... Make sure you know what the buying and selling prices are before you join a scheme. The difference between these prices should show you how much you need to sell to earn the income you want," says the department.

It adds: "A few people who get in right at the start might make extra money but don't

PEP M&G DIVIDEND PERFORMANCE SINCE LAUNCH

Year Ended 31st Dec	£6,000 Lump Sum			£50 per month			
	M&G Dividend Net	M&G Dividend Gross	Gross Building Society	Amount Invested	M&G Dividend Net	M&G Dividend Gross	Gross Building Society
6.5.1964	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£50	£50	£50	£50
1964	5,796	5,796	6,230	350	319	319	357
1965	6,504	6,672	6,633	950	974	992	1,001
1966	6,120	6,360	7,094	1,550	1,456	1,487	1,693
1967	7,224	7,728	7,610	2,150	2,331	2,424	2,439
1968	9,900	10,872	8,187	2,750	3,866	4,087	3,249
1969	8,256	9,252	8,872	3,350	3,766	4,022	4,148
1970	8,376	9,636	9,634	3,950	4,411	4,784	5,132
1971	12,696	15,036	10,437	4,550	7,452	8,236	5,186
1972	15,696	18,960	11,286	5,150	9,839	11,017	7,315
1973	11,832	14,496	12,395	5,750	7,869	8,878	8,667
1974	7,224	9,036	13,810	6,350	5,225	5,956	10,294
1975	16,164	20,760	15,373	6,950	12,446	14,446	12,095
1976	15,540	20,436	17,078	7,550	12,512	14,770	14,072
1977	24,696	33,288	18,939	8,150	20,559	24,739	16,241
1978	27,396	37,812	20,817	8,750	23,390	26,589	18,482
1979	28,476	40,176	23,434	9,350	24,848	31,022	21,448
1980	32,436	46,836	27,023	9,950	28,864	36,727	25,386
1981	37,464	55,488	30,688	10,550	33,929	44,107	29,470
1982	45,672	69,288	34,667	11,150	41,981	55,699	33,931
1983	65,964	102,180	38,362	11,750	61,304	82,815	38,180
1984	90,504	142,368	42,722	12,350	84,781	116,061	43,157
1985	112,968	180,180	48,189	12,950	106,466	147	

BRIEFINGS

Abbey National is writing to all Higher Interest and Seven Day Account customers advising them to transfer to an Investment or Instant Saver account. Customers may do so without giving notice or incurring a penalty. Seven Day and Higher Interest customers will receive only 1 per cent gross interest after this month as Abbey is winding down both accounts.

Girobank Visa Classic cards will pay a £12 annual fee from October 1. Customers will be charged the fee after the first use of their cards from that date. They have until March 1, 1993, to clear outstanding balances. Those who use them only as cheque guarantee cards will be exempt from the fee and can apply for Visa three-in-one cheque guarantee, debit and cashpoint cards later this year. There is free protection for 100 days against loss, theft or accidental damage.

Rates on Chelsea building society's Classic account will be cut from this Monday by 0.4 per cent gross. Savers with £2,500 to £4,999 will earn 6.83 per cent net, 9.1 per cent gross. Those with high balances of £25,000 or more will earn between 7.58 per cent net and 10.1 per cent gross. The postal account offers instant access and a cheque book and cheque card. The Chelsea has a phone line, 0800 717 515, open from 9 am to 5 pm, seven days a week.

NEED ADVICE ON A PERSONAL EQUITY PLAN?
Ring our free Moneyline from 9.00 a.m.- 5.30 p.m., 7 days a week, on
0800 282 101



Rupert Bruce outlines a range of investments that gain with market rises and avoid the falls

FOR those who want to invest in the stock market but stick to the building society account. Any rise in the FT-SE over the investment's five-year term will be more than matched by a 133 per cent rise in GEB Plus's value.

Bristol & West puts an investor's initial sum into a building society account and gives the interest to an unnamed third party. The third party pledges to make the sum up to 133 per cent of any FT-SE index rise.

The GEB Plus is taking new money until next Friday. Another offer will follow. Henderson, the investment manager, markets a similar product called the Anchored Asset Account which is unique in that it is cloaked in a Pep and therefore partly shielded from the risk."

What all these investments have in common is a guarantee that after a set period — usually three or five years — the initial investment will be returned intact if the stock market has fallen. The postal account offers instant access and a cheque book and cheque card. The Chelsea has a phone line, 0800 717 515, open from 9 am to 5 pm, seven days a week.

The investment benefiting most from a rise is Bristol &

West's GEB Plus which, ironically, is based on a building society account. Any rise in the FT-SE over the investment's five-year term will be more than matched by a 133 per cent rise in GEB Plus's value.

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Ready for recovery: Sharon Chilcott of Bristol & West

trust. Unlike any of the other investments it also has a ratchet device which locks in stock market gains. If the value of the unit trust rises by 20 per cent then half of that increase is transferred to safe-

ty. But the Henderson fund's charges are high. It charges an initial fee of 5 per cent and 1.25 per cent annually.

The lacklustre performance of the Henderson unit trust compared with the FT-SE 100

index over the past two years has to be considered.

Scottish Provident, Bradford & Bingley, and Clerical Medical have pioneered "guaranteed" investments and have attracted £180 million between them since the beginning of 1990.

The Scottish Provident Capital Guarantee Bond and the Bradford & Bingley Marketmaster Growth Bond have similar characteristics because both are designed by Scottish Provident.

Its own bond is 90 per cent invested in its Blue Chip Fund and the other 10 per cent is invested in a protector units' including traded options.

Bradford & Bingley invest 74 per cent of its bond in the Blue Chip Fund, while another 25 per cent goes into the Money Market fund. Only 1 per cent is used to buy traded options to hedge against falls in the stock market.

The Scottish Provident bond has an initial charge of 5 per cent and an annual charge of 1 per cent, while the Bradford & Bingley one charges 6 per cent and 1 per cent respectively.

Clerical Medical simply invests in two traded option contracts for its Guaranteed Bond: one to hedge against a fall and the other to match any rise.

It charges a high 7 per cent initially and 0.75 per cent annually.

Scottish scores a first with flat initial Pep fee

BY SARA MCCONNELL

INVESTORS putting up to £6,000 into Premium personal equity plans (Peps) with Scottish Equitable will pay flat initial fees of £45 per plan per year instead of 5 per cent, which could cost £300.

Charging for early encashment will recoup some of the money lost in initial charges but Keith Lockhart, Scottish Equitable's sales director, unit trusts, said that on balance customers would benefit more than the company. When investors paid 5 per cent initial charges, on top of their investments, companies benefited from funds on which customers could otherwise have earned interest.

The 3 per cent commission paid to intermediaries out of the old 5 per cent charge will now be met by Scottish Equitable. Initial charges had been "a constant source of complaint from customers", Mr Lockhart said.

There is still an annual Pep management charge of 0.8 per cent as well as a charge for each unit trust invested in through the Pep. These range from 0.75 per cent a year for the European fund, through 1 per cent for the blue chip, high income, UK and global and Europe 2000 funds, to 1.25 per cent for the ethical fund.

Tariff should be £5

From Dr John Brandon

Sir, I note from your comment (July 25) Barclays Bank charged £92.50 per hour of managerial time to a customer who exceeded his overdraft.

I have a complaint against Barclays being considered by the Banking Ombudsman.

In the event of my claim proving successful Mr Shurman has in mind a tariff for compensation of £5 per hour. This is because "it is the Ombudsman's view that when dealing with matters of this type, an individual will usually use his or her leisure time to deal with the complaint."

Yours sincerely,

JOHN BRANDON,
32 Dorchester Avenue,
Cardiff.

Essence of insurance

From B. S. Rooney

Sir, After yet another attack by you on the life assurance industry, I am at last moved to protest. I spent 40 years in the industry and my father sold life assurance in his turn for some 40 years also. I may claim, therefore, to know something about it. I am particularly annoyed by the fourth paragraph of your article "Building society and bank savers do not stand the risk of losing etc..."

But neither do they stand to gain the full sum assured, if they die the day after paying the first premium! In all your articles on this subject, I cannot recall this point being made. Surely this is what life assurance is all about — protection for dependants. My father had several friends whose widowhood was made easier to bear by the policies he had sold their husbands.

If you were to stress that life assurance was never intended to be an investment vehicle, but a protection for the family, you would be doing your readers a greater service than persuading them to look to personal profit.

Yours faithfully,
B. S. ROONEY,
Avon Lodge, Alton Lane,
Four Marks, Hampshire.

Give one-income couples some mortgage support

From Mr Alan Allsopp

Sir, Your article "Mortgage debts spell misery for thousands" (Weekend Money, August 1) raises several interesting points.

It will be generally conceded that (a) fewer repossessions would lead to greater confidence in the housing market and a lessening of mortgage debts; (b) young couples are at greater financial risk during the first ten years of marriage; (c) one-income couples are at greater risk than are two-income couples. It would seem

sensible, therefore, to stop repossessions before they happen by giving some sort of support to one-income couples in their early married years.

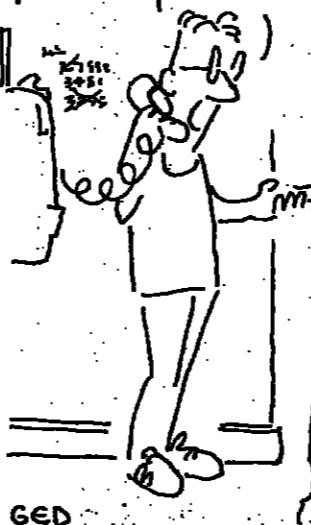
Well before the last Budget strong representations were made to the Treasury showing precisely how this could be done. It was recommended that during the first ten years of a marriage a non-earning spouse should be allowed to transfer his/her unused personal allowance to the earning partner. This would save such couples about £800 a year,

equal to a 2 per cent interest rate cut on a £40,000 mortgage. The cost would have been about £600 million annually. The proposal was rejected out of hand.

In the light of continued repossessions and the enduring depression of the housing market do your readers feel the Treasury acted wisely and responsibly?

Yours faithfully,
ALAN ALLSOPP,
78 Etwall Road,
Hall Green,
Birmingham.

I need £10p for the phone



10,000p if it's to your Bank Manager

Investment trusts are safer for pensioners than bespoke portfolios

From Mr Antony Michell

Sir, I was interested in the AITC chairman's letter on August 1. For pensioners, the investment trust is ideal. Many of us are on smallish pensions but have capital augmented by redundancy payments. It is essential for us to invest safely and wisely.

As Mr Mandella says in his letter, many investment trusts provide this. I invest the first

£50,000 to £100,000 in building society accounts, Tessa, guaranteed income bonds and National Savings issues. Any capital over that I put into low-cost investment trusts, making no purchases in single company equities. I suggest there is no point in buying a Pep unless I have more than £200,000 (£300,000 for a married couple). A £200,000 investment

portfolio could be established for £3,000. A professionally tailored one of unit trusts, a Pep and single company equities could cost £17,000 over the first three years (if one assumes one switch of shares for the single company equities) and be riskier.

Yours faithfully,

ANTONY MICHELL,

12 Uplands,

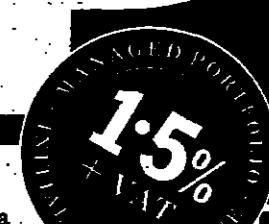
Beckenham, Kent.

Portfolio PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 23).

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	+4	+7	+8	+2			
2	+4	+5	+5	+4			
3	+3	+5	+6	+4			
4	+4	+6	+7	+2			
5	+9	+6	+6	+4			
6	+5	+5	+4	+3	+6		
7	+5	+3	+2	+1	+2		
8	+5	+7	+7	+4	+3		
9	+9	+5	+5	+2	+3		
10	+7	+8	+2	+1	+3		
11	+8	+3	+3	+1	+2		
12	+8	+5	+5	+2	+4		
13	+5	+3	+3	+1	+2		
14	+6	+4	+4	+4	+4		
15	+4	+9	+5	+2	+2		
16	+8	+5	+5	+2	+3		
17	+4	+7	+8	+4	+2		
18	+7	+5	+5	+3	+3		
19	+5	+4	+4	+3	+5		
20	+4	+8	+7	+5	+3		
21	+7	+6	+5	+3	+3		
22	+4	+4	+4	+4	+6		
23	+7	+3	+3	+1	+2		
24	+4	+4	+4	+3	+4		
25	+3	+6	+5	+4	+2		
26	+8	+5	+5	+2	+3		
27	+6	+3	+2	+2	+2		
28	+5	+4	+4	+4	+5		
29	+5	+6	+5	+2	+2		
30	+4	+5	+4	+2	+6		
31	+8	+6	+6	+3	+3		
32	+5	+5	+4	+3	+4		
33	+5	+8	+2	+1	+2		
34	+3	+7	+8	+4	+2		
35	+4	+8	+7	+6	+3		
36	+8	+4	+2	+1	+2		
37	+5	+4	+4	+2	+5		
38	+7	+8	+4	+2	+3		
39	+9	+6	+5	+2	+4		
40	+5	+5	+2	+1	+2		
41	+4	+7	+5	+6	+2		
42	+6	+5	+6	+2	+3		
43	+6	+4	+2	+1	+2		
44	+5	+4	+4	+3	+5		

THE SAVE & PROSPER PEP



Lenders urge housing market lift

Lindsay Cook outlines the rash of advice for the Chancellor this week on reviving property sales

MORTGAGE lenders have wasted no time this week in letting Norman Lamont, Chancellor of the Exchequer, know how they would revive the housing market. Most of the schemes would cost at least £1 billion a year.

Abbey National suggested a novel, but unworkable, scheme which would give homeowners who make a loss when they sell a tax credit of up to £10,000. The proposal, a pet project of Sir Christopher Tugendhat, chairman of the former building society, was above all intended to get the debate on how to stop prices from spiralling downwards.

The Halifax and Nationwide both confirmed this week that property prices continued to fall during July despite some buyers rushing to beat the August 19 deadline for the return to a £30,000 threshold for stamp duty. This follows eight months when all properties sold for under £250,000 have escaped the 1 per cent tax. The largest mortgage lender reported that prices fell by 0.4 per cent in July and the Nationwide said that the fall was 0.5 per cent. The Halifax said the reduction over the year was 5.2 per cent and Nationwide 6 per cent.

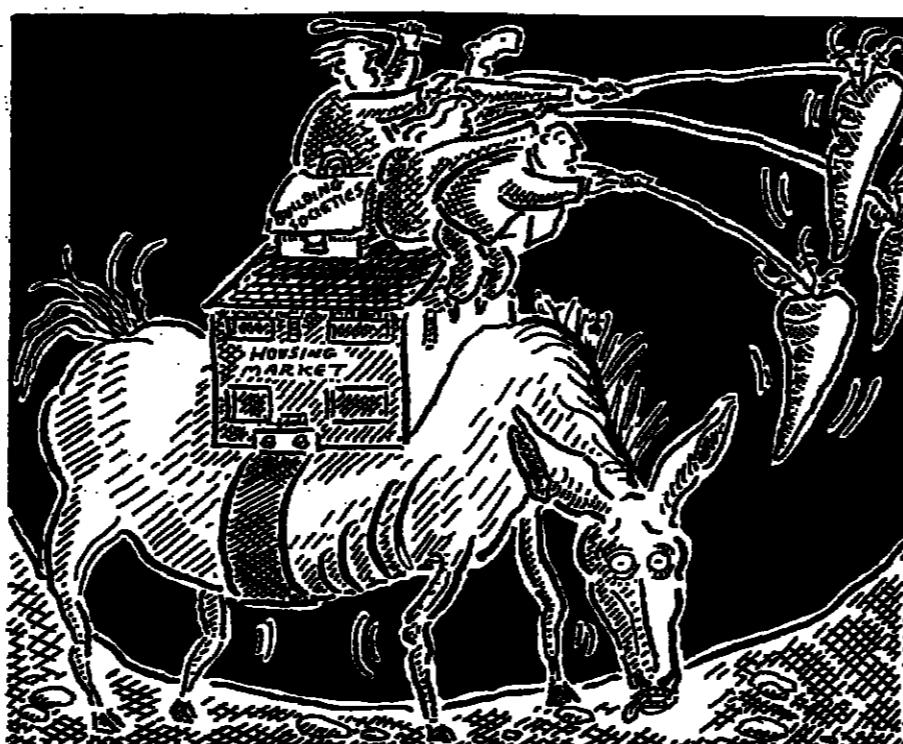
All lenders are clear that in the long term lower interest

rates are needed but recognise the constraints of entry to the exchange-rate mechanism mean that these cannot be achieved straightforwardly.

But upward pressure on mortgage rates was reduced this week when National Savings announced cuts in its interest rates by up to 0.8 per cent. Building societies are expected to announce that they had an inflow of at least £300 million in July after the loss of £31.4 million in June. This was caused mainly by strong competition from National Savings. If societies had felt the need to increase their savers' rates, mortgage rates would also have been raised.

Abbey National's scheme would give tax credit to people making a loss on properties when they sold them. These would only be available to people who bought another property. The credit to be set against income tax would mean that most recipients would pay no tax at all during the year of their move and could also get a refund.

For most caught in the debt trap, with properties worth less than their outstanding mortgages, there would be difficulty in moving on because all the tax credit and possibly any savings could be used in paying the difference between the



value and the mortgage. Some lenders also fear that by asking for tax credits the Treasury could respond by taxing capital gains on homes. These are currently free of tax and with prices falling or static there would be no immediate cost to homeowners wanting to move. Such a move could put the brakes on house price inflation if it ever outpaced the retail prices index again.

Donald Kirkham, group chief executive of the Woolwich Building Society, called

for a doubling of the mortgage tax relief ceiling to £60,000 for new purchases for one year. This extra relief would last for five years. He also suggested a permanent doubling of the stamp duty threshold to £60,000 so that first time buyers do not have to pay it. The cost of doubling the mortgage tax relief ceiling would be £1 billion a year if all purchases were included and £500 million if it were for first time buyers only. Changing stamp duty would cost £840

homeowners cannot. This causes particular hardship for people who lose one job and can only get one paying much less, or for couples where one partner loses their job. In some cases the second partner has to give up a job so that the couple can keep their home. It also favours a doubling of the threshold for stamp duty.

The lenders say they are not just making pleas to prevent their own bad debts on their mortgages from rising. They see the housing market as central to the economy. Sir Christopher said that people did not buy carpets, curtains or other household items if they did not move house.

Any move to help the housing market would have to come before the end of October to have any effect before next spring. By then, 300,000 people could be 12 months or more in arrears with their mortgages or have lost their homes. Currently this number are six months behind with payments. In addition, about one million people, mostly first time buyers, have properties worth less than their mortgages. A further two million have homes worth less than they paid for them.

Mike Jackson, chief executive of Birmingham Midshires, a society that a year ago had higher than average arrears, and now has lower than average arrears, said this week he did not expect to return to arrears levels of the mid-eighties in the next four or five years unless measures were taken to help the housing market.

BUILDING SOCIETY INVESTORS!

Do you really know which Building Society pays the highest interest rate for your needs?

To find out for certain simply complete the coupon and send to:

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Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

Willis Owen T/A The Building Society Shop

PRINTER

Over 55? Why not enjoy a tax free income?

Life may begin at 40, but tax free income for you begins at 55 for 20 years.

That is, if you have invested in the right place. You see, we have a plan which gives you tax free income from investment funds which have already been taxed at source.

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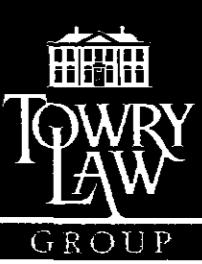
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By SARA McCONNELL

BUYING everything from baby clothes to hi-fi equipment over the telephone from the other side of the Atlantic may not sound the easiest or cheapest way to shop.

Visions of customs men ripping open parcels, and charging vast amounts of duty sends many rushing for the safety of their nearest (British) shopping centre.

If they do, they could be missing out on a good thing, believes Richard McBrien, author of *Buying Direct from*

the USA. The third edition of this book lists a range of American mail order companies, explains how to obtain their catalogues, order by telephone and pay for goods.

Translations of American clothes and shoe sizes and electric voltages are included, along with a chapter on consumer rights and how customs calculate duty on imported mail order goods.

Of course there would be no point in going to the trouble of buying American if it did

not yield substantial savings. A strong pound has helped, said Mr McBrien, but even before the mail order business had this help from the foreign exchanges, many consumer goods were significantly cheaper in America.

Clothes, sports goods, books, shoes, camera equipment, golf clubs, electronics, hi-fi systems and telephones can all be bought through mail order. Mr McBrien said:

"As a rough guide expect to pay in dollars what you would

pay in pounds here." This means savings of nearly 40 per cent on a Sony video camera, which would cost \$865.98 in America and £750 in Britain. Using an exchange rate of \$1.90 to the pound, the video camera in America would cost the equivalent of just £455.78.

Even better savings can be made on a pair of genuine American Levi 501s, which would cost \$34.65 in America and £36.99 in this country. When the American price has been converted into pounds, the cost is £18.23.

This gives plenty of leeway for paying import duty, shipping, value added tax and still obtaining the goods for a much cheaper price, says Mr McBrien. The book explains briefly how import duty is calculated and gives a warning that VAT at 17.5 per cent

is calculated on the total cost of the goods including shipping and duty as well as original price.

Many people will not even have to pay the cost of an international phone call as mail order companies often have toll-free numbers.

Time differences between America and the United Kingdom come in useful for customers who do have to pay as telephoning is cheaper after 8 pm. When it is 8 pm in the United Kingdom it is early or mid afternoon in most American states.

Buying direct from the USA costs £12.95 including postage and packing and is available from the publishers, Running Heads, 82 East Dulwich Grove, London SE22 8TW, telephone 071-733 4096.

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William Remmier what I said about Foreign & Colonial Performance.

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- Consistency in management and performance were considered key ingredients. It was also viewed as the most international of the six, with the lowest weighting in Britain. The trust, standing at a 10 per cent discount (against an average for the year of 8.4 per cent), was also considered good value.
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This 'advertisement' first appeared as editorial in the Sunday Telegraph Investment Trust Survey, 2nd August 1992.

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Master Fund	88.72	-0.70	88.72	-0.70	0.00						
International	90.53	-0.17	90.53	-0.17	0.00						
Dividend Fund	43.68	-0.49	43.68	-0.49	0.00						
Global Fund	32.36	-0.36	32.36	-0.36	0.00						
Edmund Fund	20.16	-1.37	20.16	-1.37	0.00						
High Div Equity	117.05	-12.47	109.60	-9.83	0.00						
Global Fund Int	119.40	-12.07	109.60	-9.83	0.00						
Gifts Fund Int	119.40	-12.07	109.60	-9.83	0.00						
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Alpha Inc Gds	21.00	-0.55	21.00	-0.55	0.00						
European Fund	65.18	-0.60	65.18	-0.60	0.00						
Corporate Fund	65.18	-0.60	65.18	-0.60	0.00						
Exempt Fund	71.84	-0.60	71.84	-0.60	0.00						
Energy Fund	52.00	-0.59	52.00	-0.59	0.00						
Fossil Energy Fd	52.00	-0.59	52.00	-0.59	0.00						
GLOBAL DIVIDEND UNIT TRUSTS											
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Alpha Fund	161.24	-17.30	161.24	-17.30	0.00						
High Yield	178.75	-10.00	178.75	-10.00	0.00						
Corporate Fund	140.00	-36.37	102.00	-0.00	4.04						
European Fund	27.49	-0.28	27.49	-0.28	0.00						
Small Corp Fund	27.49	-0.28	27.49	-0.28	0.00						
Small Growth Fund	27.49	-0.28	27.49	-0.28	0.00						
Tiger Fund	51.50	-0.51	51.50	-0.51	0.00						
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Energy Fund	52.00	-0.59	52.00	-0.59	0.00						
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Capital Fund	49.17	-0.38	49.17	-0.38	0.00						
Euro Fund	60.02	-0.20	60.02	-0.20	0.00						
General Fund	100.82	-20.10	84.20	-2.45	0.00						
Gift Fund	100.82	-20.10	84.20	-2.45	0.00						
Global Fund	100.82	-20.10	84.20	-2.45	0.00						
High Yield Fund	100.82	-20.10	84.20	-2.45	0.00						
Corporate Fund	100.82	-20.10	84.20	-2.45	0.00						
Exempt Fund	100.82	-20.10	84.20	-2.45	0.00						
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Alpha Fund	62.00	-0.44	62.00	-0.44	0.00						
Corporate Fund	75.07	-0.17	75.07	-0.17	0.00						
Exempt Fund	81.27	-0.20	81.27	-0.20	0.00						
Gift Fund	81.27	-0.20	81.27	-0.20	0.00						
Global Fund	81.27	-0.20	81.27	-0.20	0.00						
High Yield Fund	81.27	-0.20	81.27	-0.20	0.00						
Corporate Fund	81.27	-0.20	81.27	-0.20	0.00						
Exempt Fund	81.27	-0.20	81.27	-0.20	0.00						
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Alpha Fund	62.00	-0.44	62.00	-0.44	0.00						
Corporate Fund	75.07	-0.17	75.07	-0.17	0.00						
Exempt Fund	81.27	-0.20	81.27	-0.20	0.00						
Gift Fund	81.27	-0.20	81.27	-0.20	0.00						
Global Fund	81.27	-0.20	81.27	-0.20	0.00						
High Yield Fund	81.27	-0.20	81.27	-0.20	0.00						
Corporate Fund	81.27	-0.20	81.27	-0.20	0.00						
Exempt Fund	81.27	-0.20	81.27	-0.20	0.00						
GLOBAL XTRA UNIT TRUST											
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Alpha Fund	62.00	-0.44	62.00	-0.44	0.00						
Corporate Fund	75.07	-0.17	75								

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11	Radio City	Leisure	
12	Interwest Gp	Industrial	
13	Tate & Lyle	Foods	
14	Dunelm Sys	Industrial	
15	Land Sec	Property	
16	Owens Abrd	Leisure	
17	Security Serv.	Industrial	
18	Dag Motors	Motors/Air	
19	Polyphos	Industrial	
20	Adwest	Industrial	
21	Clarke Foods	Foods	
22	Ewan	Drapery/Sts	
23	Ramill	Chem./Plas	
24	BSB Group	Industrial	
25	Uxchem	Industrial	
26	Booth Inds	Industrial	
27	GKN	Industrial	
28	Usher Walker	Paper/Print	
29	Briscoe	Property	
30	YRM	Building/Bds	
31	Argos Plc	Drapery/Sts	
32	GWR Gp	Leisure	
33	Burton's Crap	Foods	
34	Hickson	Chem./Plas	
35	Smithline	Industrial	
36	Vicks	Industrial	
37	Aleson	Drapery/Sts	
38	Smiths Ind	Industrial	
39	Hardy Hoses	Breweries	
40	Merchant Retail	Foods	
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Sunday Times

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ROUND BRITAIN YACHT RACE

Sailors compete with the might of the oceans

More than thirty yachts set sail from Cowes today in the first Hartlepool Renaissance race, a 1,860 mile round-Britain challenge. Barry Pickthall reports

The excitement and challenge of the old British Islands Race, last staged 12 years ago, is being revived this year by Teesside Development Corporation. It is sponsoring the third fully-crewed round Britain yacht race which starts today. The event, organised by the Royal Ocean Racing Club, was previously run in 1976 and 1980. The race has been renamed the Hartlepool Renaissance to celebrate the port's transformation from near dereliction to thriving marina, and the revival of its strong maritime traditions.

The time for the competitors to beat is six minutes short of 11 days, the record for the 1,860 mile endurance race set by Robin Knox-Johnston and his crew aboard *More Oppos* in 1976.

"It's eminently beatable. In fact I am surprised it has stood this long," says Knox-Johnston, who has tackled the circumnavigation of Britain and Ireland seven times in all. The prospect of beating Knox-Johnston's record has attracted at least four of the 31 entries to the Hartlepool Renaissance race. The largest is Mike Slade's *Ocean Leopard*, an 80ft luxury cruising yacht, which already holds the monohull record around the Isle of Wight and has since been fitted with a deeper racing keel.

"It's going to be something of a David and Goliath contest," David Alan Williams, who skipper's the 57 tonne yacht, says. His crew have

dubbed her "The Blue Hotel" because of the yacht's luxurious interior, but he admits that carrying a washing machine and tumble dryer around Britain is something of a handicap in light airs.

In a blow, she's like an express train, but in light conditions, smaller, light displacement yachts like the Colin Watkins skippered *Dump Truck* and Don Parr's *Quidnunc of Wight* will be very competitive. They will certainly be keeping us on our toes."

In the 1991 Round the Isle and race, an annual pilgrimage around the Isle of Wight for 1,500 crews, the conditions were perfect for the 80 footer. Her design is modelled on the former Whitbread round the world race yacht *Crichton Naturally* and she creamed around the course at an average of 9.8 knots, three knots faster than Knox-Johnston's average for the longer circumnavigation in 1976. This year

however, conditions around the Wight were at their most capricious and *Ocean Leopard* remained glued to the water. "We were three-quarters of the way round before we even caught up with *Dump Truck*," Alan Williams says.

This year's race is the first of the three organised by the RORC to have compulsory stops en-route. The 24-hour stopovers at Cork, Lerwick and Hartlepool, cause no great diversions, but make Knox-Johnston's time of ten days, 23 hours, 54 minutes the benchmark, rather than the record

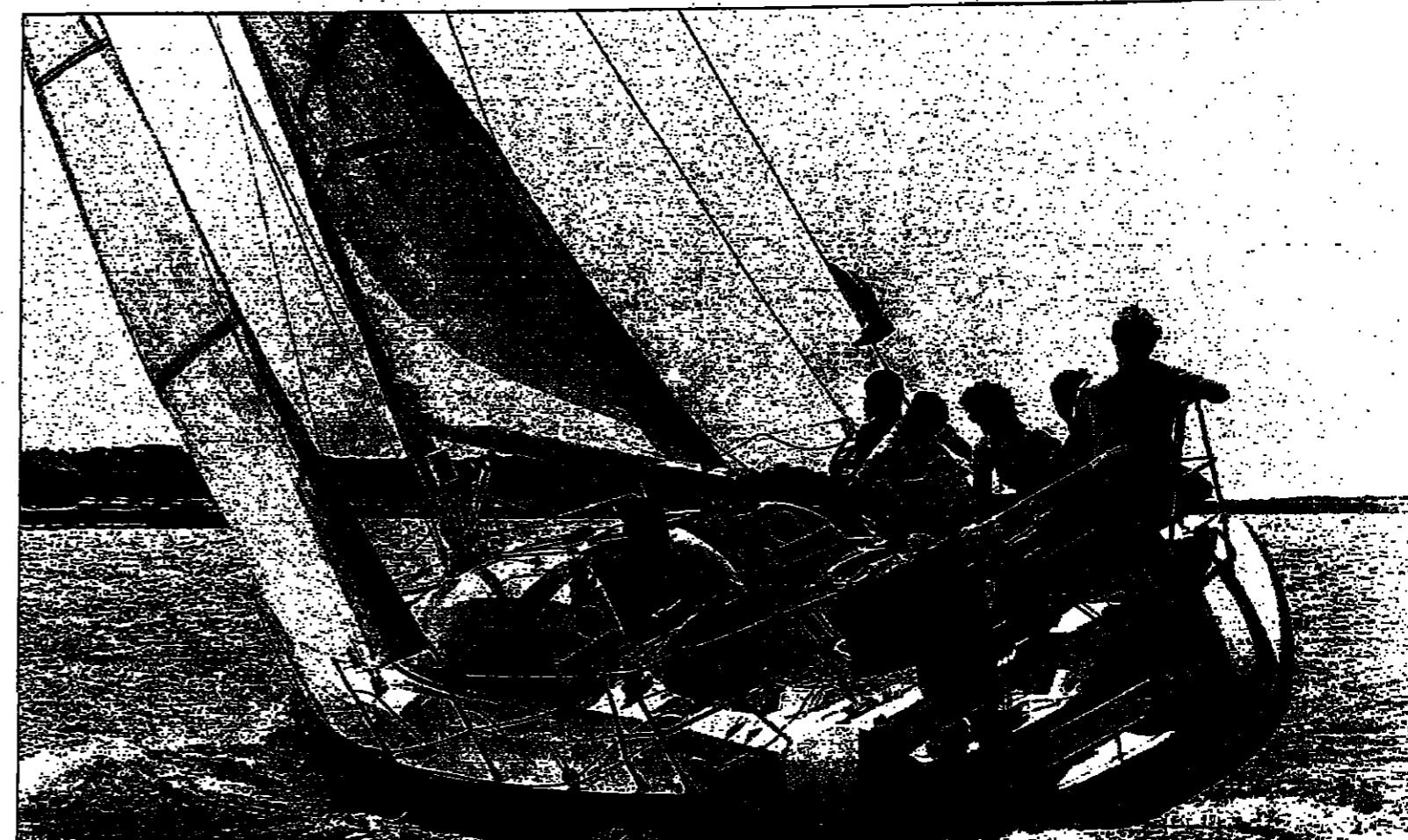
to beat. His 48ft yacht, after all, had to sail fully provisioned and the course, that year, left out St Kilda, that craggy outcrop of rocks north of the Outer Hebrides.

The 13 yachts competing in British Islands Race in 1980 met severe conditions most of the way round. "It was filthy weather," Don Parr, the Admiral of the RORC, says. But the memory has not stopped him from making this his fifth circumnavigation. Parr finished third that year after stopping to assist a yacht in distress. The weather was so bad that even the winning Italian yacht, skippered by Carlo di Motola Balestra, could not get anywhere near the record. His time was 12 days, ten hours, 42 minutes, an average of 6.23 knots.

Others challenging for handicap rather than line honours among the class 1 fleet, include Richard Fenhalls with his Swan 57 *Noonmark V* and a number of other production cruiser/racers such as Chris Little's *Bénéteau 4515 Bounder* and *Hindsight*, a new Rob Humphreys designed Sigma 400 campaigned by Trevor Hill.

Three crews preparing for next year's Whitbread round the world race are also looking to win a share of the silverware, if only to attract sponsors. Colin Watkins, who skippered the British maxi *Saturno* in the last race, has chartered the successful 54ft IMS racer *Dump Truck*.

James Hatfield has charge of Bob Fisher's 45ft ultra-light



All hands on deck: the *Tomate*, one of the yachts that will compete in the Hartlepool Renaissance race skippered by Jean-Louis Fabry

cruiser/racer *Barracuda* (renamed *Dolphin* for this race) while Matthew Humphries and his youth crew have a production one-tonner, *The Youth Challenge*.

Others have the adventure rather than the ultimate prize as their goal. *Hartlepool Renaissance*, the 71ft training yacht skippered by Bill Broad, will be carrying a crew of raw recruits. Another is *Multiple Challenge*, one of three Sigma 38s entered.

Skippered by Nick Booth, who has spent the past year training crews for next month's British Steel Challenge

miles a year teaching the art of seamanship and navigation in races across the Atlantic, around the Fastnet — and round Britain. Each crew has paid £1,500, £200 more than the crew aboard *Five Star Sailing's Storm 33, Jade*, skippered by John Horn.

Other small boats to watch out for include Tom and Vicki Jackson's 26-year-old *Sunstone*, a 38ft Sparkman and Stephens designed wooden yacht, which represented England in the recent Rolex Commodore's Cup series at Cowes. Another is *April Storm* campaigned by Harold Usherwood, whose home port is Hartlepool. Like *Jade* she is a *Storm 33* design, which Usherwood steered to class honours in the Brent Walker Brighton to Puerto Sherry race in 1990 and to fourth place in last year's Fastnet event.

As with Don Parr, whose enthusiasm for this race remains undiminished, most skippers see the treacherous course as an ultimate test. "It's been a lifelong ambition to sail round Britain," says Nigel Lawson Dick, who leads a team of employees from the John Lewis Partnership aboard their company Sader 34, *Ann Speed IV*.

WAITING FOR THE CANNON: THE ENTRIES

CLASS I Name	Skipper	Sail No	Yacht type
Ocean Leopard	Mike Slade	K13657	Osprey 80
Hartlepool Renaissance	Bill Broad	T5K438	Classe 71
Quidnunc of Wight	Don Parr	K3000	62ft Gurney One-off
Noonmark V	Richard Fenhalls	K564	Swan 57
Dump Truck	Colin Wardens	K514	Dubois 54
Dolphin	James Hatfield	K107	45 Castro
Bon Vouloir III	Gerard Louyat (Fr)	F14601	45ft X452
Bounder	Chris Little	K2569	Bénéteau 4515
Sea Biscuit II	Paul Stafford	K12867	Bénéteau First 405
Hindsight	Trevor Hill	K44187	Sigma 400
The Youth Challenge	Matthew Humphries	K3863	39ft X119
Incite	John & Bridget Watson	K466	35ft Jeanneau Selection
Tomate	Jean-Louis Fabry (Fr)	F7500	Jeanneau 35ft One-design
FLOURISHING HAMBURG	Ronald England Hopkirk	K516	Oyster 41
	Goerg Christensen (Ger)	G2033	Sails one-off Michael Klussmann
CLASS II			
Sunstone	Tom & Vicki Jackson	K2183	38ft S85 one-off
Multiple Challenge	Nick Booth	K8293	Sigma 38
Rapscallion	Ian Postlethwaite	K3816	Sigma 38
Cornix II	Roger Raven	K3807	Sigma 38
Fleur de la Mer	Derek Attridge	K1961T	Dehler 38
Samantha	A P Dunn (Neth)	J444	Carter 37
Silver Apple	Arie van Hee	E115	Holland 36
Drake's Drum	Terry Rowe	K3944	Sigma 36
Barbette II	Angus Taverne	K982	Dehler 34
April Storm	Harold Usherwood	K1991T	Storm 33
Prizeprasin	Roldan Jungblut (Ger)	G125	Elastrom 32
CLASS III			
Ann Speed IV	Nigel Lawson Dick	K3411T	Sadler 34
Brandy Bottle	R Poleck	K4121	Ufo 34
Clarinet	Paul March/Kate Bottomore	K195	S85 one-off
Deestalker	Michael Taylor-Jones	K556	S85 34
Jade	John Horn	K2186T	Storm 33

From grime and graft to pink gin and poop decks

Hartlepool's transformation of its dying docks has put a once great port back on the sailors' map

Hartlepool and yachting at first blush seem about as compatible as peaches and creosote. How, one might think, does a depressed northeastern town with a reputation for the grime and graft of coal exports and heavy industry get into white sails, pink gins on the poop deck and the upwardly mobile image of messing about in boats?

The answer is nobody is quite sure and even the Teesside Development Corporation which thought up the idea has been surprised at how the notion of creating a sailing centre has taken off.

Hartlepool had a great maritime tradition, but not in the pretty boats for pleasure sector. Once Britain's third biggest commercial port, Hartlepool has built freighters for the world's trade routes, sent Durham coal to foreign buyers and exported steel from its own foundries. Today Durham's coal industry is all but dead and the steel works have disappeared, but Duncan Hall, the development corporation's chief executive, saw a way to turn that tradition in a new direction. A marina was an obvious project for the near derelict south docks which were presented to his corporation in 1987 with government orders to "do something".

"It was never an idealistic creation foisted on the community. The whole thing was led by the market," he says. "We began with plans for 82 berths, but the rush for space meant we had to double it. Then we had to double it again." Ultimately it will have 750 berths let at a market rent.

In the process, the development corporation has spent £14 million re-locating the harbour authority and another £9 million on improving sea defences before the first skip of concrete for the £16.5 million marina could be poured. All the 164 berths so far completed are occupied and there is a waiting list.

Initial scepticism was founded, although there are still those who doubt the benefit in jobs that the project will bring to a town where unemployment averages 15

per cent. Mr Hall is non-committal about the number of jobs that the development corporation has created, but he does highlight the huge inward investment it brings. Having set the maritime theme, it was logical to pursue it and the corporation has encouraged attention by sponsoring the round Britain race.

Hartlepool will be the destination of the fleet on the first east-coast leg from Lerwick and for the start of the final dash to

Cowes. One of the entrants is a 72ft ketch named after the port development, the *British Steel*. Last month over 20,000 Hartlepool people turned up on the town's dockside to wave off their entry when she sailed for the Southampton start-line.

Many of the town's unemployed should find work in the marina's tourism spin-off. Hartlepool's craftsmen have shown their skills with the restoration of *HMS Warrior*, one of the navy's first iron warships now on permanent display in Portsmouth dockyard. Their talent has been turned to renovating another historic ship, *HMS Trincomalee*, Britain's oldest warship still afloat. Two years ago the rotting, dismasted Napoleonic hulk was towed from Portsmouth to Hartlepool for a £5 million restoration programme and will ultimately become the centrepiece of a major tourist attraction.

Close by, another coup for the town will soon be taking shape, the maritime branch of the Imperial War Museum, which will house all sea-going exhibits. The museum, brought to Hartlepool against strong competition, is expected to attract 400,000 visitors annually.

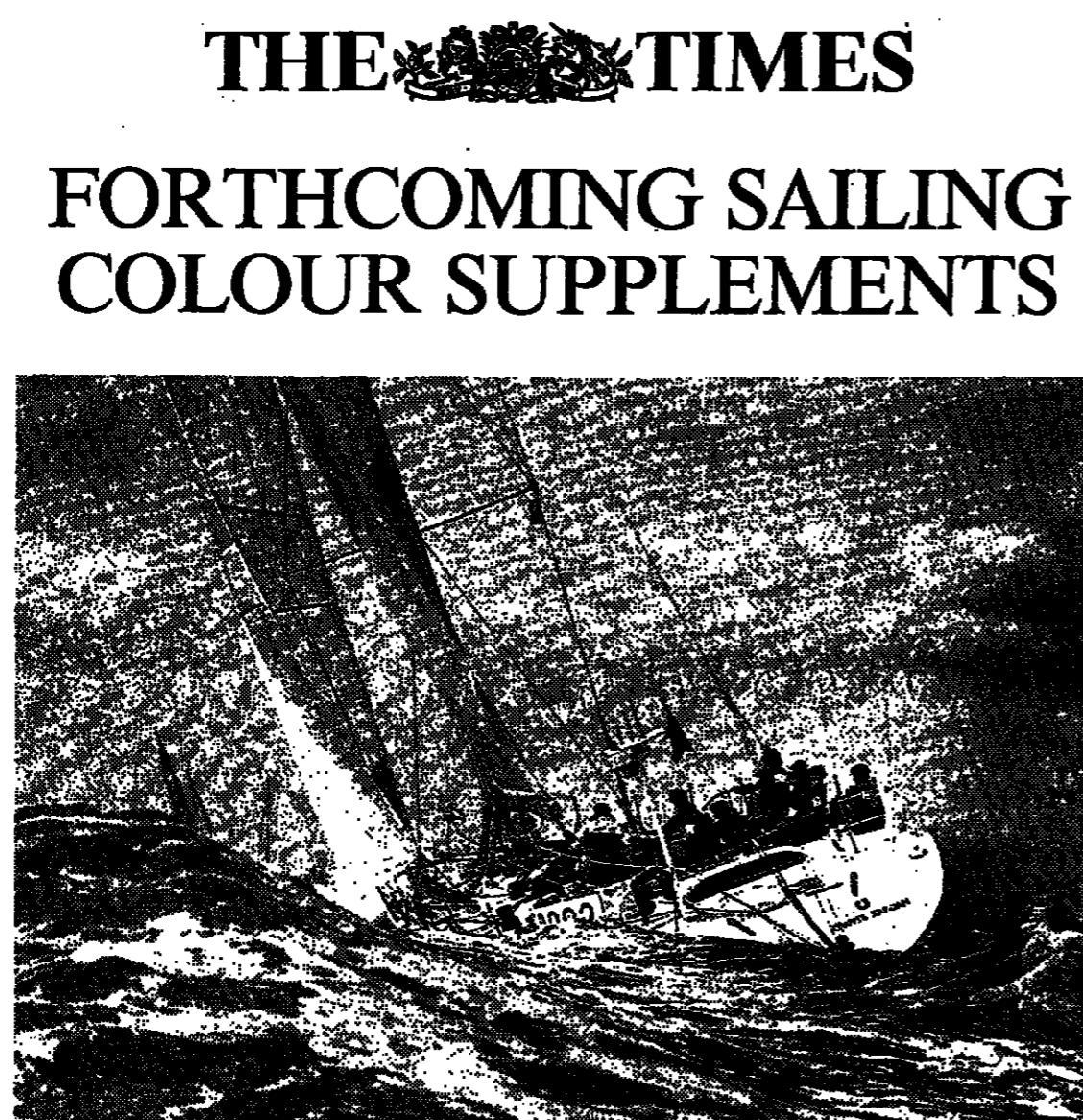
The borough council is playing its part in the rejuvenation. Pilloried four years ago by the Audit Commission for its lack of direction, it came back with a strategic plan for the future. Last year the commission returned and was fulsome in its praise for the new policies aimed at restoring local pride, jobs and the environment.

There are plans for new industry and housing on 500 acres of the former British Steel south works and other disused heavy industry sites.

Last month Hartlepool bid successfully for a £37.5 million grant from the government's City Challenge scheme to open up a shopping and business corridor from the town centre to the marina. The cash will also pay for retraining programmes to match workers from the old industries to the needs of the new.

Not bad for a town whose only other claim to fame was its nineteenth century insularity and ignorance that led a mob of citizens to try and hang a monkey washed ashore from a French wreck as a Bonapartist spy.

PAUL WILKINSON

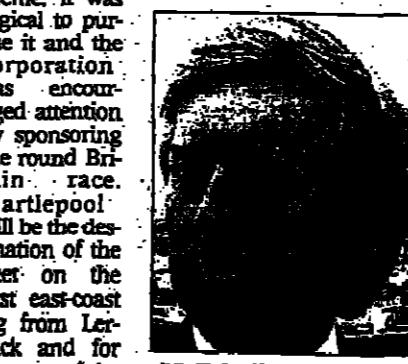


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10TH SEPTEMBER 1992

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Hall: building a future

first such "wrong way round" passage by Clay Blyth in his yacht, *British Steel*. Last month over 20,000 Hartlepool people turned up on the town's dockside to wave off their entry when she sailed for the Southampton start-line.

PAUL WILKINSON

IOC is ready to step up the fight against drug-taking



Krabbe: positive test

THE most disconcerting news for Andrew Davies and Andrew Saxon, the British weightlifters who tested positive for the banned drug, Clenbuterol, is that the careers of Katrin Krabbe, the world champion sprinter from Germany, and Jud Logan, the fourth-placed American hammer thrower at the Games, have possibly been terminated by a similar positive test.

Prince Alexandre de Merode, the chairman of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) medical commission, whose members work painstakingly throughout the Games, said: "The struc-

ture of the commission needs to be adjusted in several ways, but from all the evidence, I am of the opinion that the correct decision was reached in the case of these two British competitors."

The confusion, and also the claim by some, including professor Arnold Beckert, the eminent chemist/pharmacologist, that the weightlifters have been unjustly banned, is caused by Clenbuterol having ambiguous qualities.

It is a stimulant and a treatment for asthma, as well as being an anabolic agent, though not a steroid. But the cynics will perhaps rightly ask why so many prominent athletes have suddenly developed

a need for a cure for asthma, or an alleged "tight chest" in Saxon's case.

Dr Jacques Rogge, a Belgian orthopaedic surgeon, three times an Olympic yachtsman, president of his national Olympic committee and an IOC member, is aware of the criticisms in a letter published by *The Times* from Richard Nicholson, the editor of the *Bulletin of Medical Ethics*.

This claims that Clenbuterol is neither androgenic nor promoting male characteristics, nor a steroid. The IOC did not claim it is. Dr

Rogge said yesterday: "This debate by pharmacologists is semantic. It is not important under which area Clenbuterol is categorised: It is clearly on the banned list. It aids muscle development as well as assisting asthma cases."

Furthermore, Dr Rogge dismisses Nicholson's point on whether or not Clenbuterol enhances performance. The objective of the medical commission, Dr Rogge stresses, is not only to eliminate performance-enhancing drugs but to protect competitors from drugs that can damage the health.

on the black market and that he was ignorant of the drug's categorisation within the IOC's banned list.

Nicholson's accusation that the medical commission's drug regulations are the only part of the Olympic movement that remain amateur is inaccurate as well as a weak joke. The commission contains some of the most knowledgeable scientists in the pharmaceutical field, such as Beckert and Dr Manfred Domke of Germany.

"Part of de Merode's proposed reorganisation is that Clenbuterol is a "safe" drug is denied by Dr Marie Ljungqvist of Sweden, the chairman of the medical commission of the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

criminal cases of shooting," de Merode says, "ballistic experts are asked to give technical evidence and opinions, not judgments."

Nicholson called for guidance from clinical pharmacologists, experienced in the effects of drugs prescribed for patients. Mary Glen-Haig, a British IOC member, who works on the medical commission, has already made that recommendation and it will be exercised. But suggestions by various competing that Clenbuterol is a "safe" drug is denied by Dr Marie Ljungqvist of Sweden, the chairman of the medical commission of the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

Livingston takes legal steps to prove innocence

JASON Livingston, the British sprinter sent home from the Olympics after failing a drugs test taken two weeks previously, said yesterday he was taking legal advice in an attempt to prove his innocence.

The 21-year-old European indoor 60 metres champion issued a statement to the Press Association protesting his innocence after being "inundated" with requests for interviews.

Issued through the International Athletes' Club (IAC), it reads: "This is to clarify the situation regarding the recent adverse finding of Methandienone, a banned substance, in my urine sample given in out-of-competition testing on July 15, 1992."

"As I previously stated, I have never knowingly taken any banned substance nor any product that contains a banned substance.

The finding of Methandienone in my sample is still a complete mystery and shock to me. I am currently taking legal advice and all aspects of the test are being looked at to see where a mistake could have occurred. No further statement will be made until the disciplinary hearing.

Livingston is expected to appear before a British Athletic Federation (BAF) hearing some time in the next fortnight to put his case. He faces a four-year ban from the sport if the findings are upheld.

He is being advised by David Bedford, the IAC president and chairman of his club, Shafesbury Barnet Harriers. Bedford, who is also BAF honorary secretary and a member of the federation's drugs advisory group, said he would be prepared to represent Livingston at the hearing if the sprinter's legal advisers felt it useful.

"Jason felt a short statement at this time was necessary

because he was being inundated with requests to say something to satisfy media interest," Bedford said.

It is believed Livingston has received five-figure offers to reveal his story exclusively to some national newspapers.

In Barcelona, the United States Olympic Committee spokesman, Mike Moran, said Gwen Torrence, who won the women's 200 metres on Thursday, might be sent home early if she persisted in asking other competitors of taking drugs.

"We are talking to Gwen Torrence now," he said. "She is accusing competitors here at the Games of cheating and she has no right to do that. What she is saying is totally inappropriate."

"We have a code of conduct that requires athletes to behave in a manner that brings credit and honour to the United States. She signed it," he said.

After the women's 100 metres last Saturday, Torrence, who was fourth, accused the winner, Gail Devers, an American, of taking drugs.

She made further allegations on Thursday against other competitors and also the absent German world champion, Katrin Krabbe. Blood testing was the only effective way of catching the cheats, she said.

Yesterday, Moran said: "Gail Devers was tested four times in the last year, including two out-of-competition tests. Each result showed absolutely no indication of any kind of banned substances."

"If [Torrence] refuses to comply with instructions to stop making comments about drugs, she may have to pack her bags." The USOC was refusing to say whether an early departure would bar her from President Bush's White House reception for the Olympic team next Tuesday.

STEVE Backley seemed less assured yesterday than he had earlier in the week about his chances of today becoming Britain's first Olympic javelin champion. Was there one particular danger man, he had been asked on Tuesday. "Only myself," he replied. But, after the qualifying round, not a confident word passed his lips.

Backley retreated from journalists to a chair beneath the stadium where we could observe but not interview him. "I am ready to compete," he had been telling us on Tuesday. Now, with an ice-pack applied to his right elbow, he did not look so.

"The icepack is a precautionary measure," John Jeffrey, Britain's assistant team manager, reported. "It should not be a problem." At least the worst part was over for Backley; he had avoided another qualifying round exit to go with the one he suffered

at the world championships in Tokyo last year.

Through the first round, he had to live with the prospect again. His opening throw failed to make the qualifying grade. He threw 79.36 metres, short of the 80.00 metres needed to guarantee a place in the final.

Backley's comments were passed on by Jeffrey. He was said to have felt complacent on the first throw, that he thought he could just "lob it out" and expect to qualify. His second round effort was good enough and, with 80.76 metres, he qualified ahead of three of his closest rivals, the Finns, Seppo Rait, Kimmo Kinnunen and Juhu Laukkanen.

Finland has won the last two Olympic titles, courtesy of Arto Harkonen, in 1984, and Tapio Korjus. It is the only country to have three men in the final. But for a controversial disqualification of Nigel Bevan, Britain would have had three as well.

Still far off qualifying going into his final throw, Bevan sent the javelin beyond 80 metres, but was given a red flag for touching the line with his foot. Bevan felt he had stayed within the runway, but controlled his anger towards the judge. "I am a teacher, so I cannot argue with officials," he said.

Other than in relays, Britain's only representative, apart from in the javelin, in the final today is Rob Denmark, in the 5,000 metres. Half the field is from Africa and probably only Salvatore Antible from Italy, can hope to break into the medal positions.

Denmark, ninth in the world final last year, said that he found his semi-final hard. However, his cause has been aided by the removal of a round due to insufficient entries. Denmark is more a speed 5,000 metres runner than a strength one. His best hope is for a slow final.

"There are only two in the final with a faster kick than me," Denmark said. He named Dieter Baumann, of Germany, and Fima Bayesa, of Ethiopia. However, Yobes Ondiek and Paul Bitok, of Kenya, are likely to set a pace designed to break the field early.

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"If [Torrence] refuses to comply with instructions to stop making comments about drugs, she may have to pack her bags." The USOC was refusing to say whether an early departure would bar her from President Bush's White House reception for the Olympic team next Tuesday.

So what went wrong? "We need more money," Rod Carr, the chief coach of Britain, said. "It costs around £1 million a medal," he added as he pointed to the vast sums spent by the teams from Spain, the United States and France.

But though sailors have had to buy their own equipment, the top people in the British squad have not lacked for money. Way, Edgington, Smith, Brotherton and

Hemmings, the 470 pair, as well as Stuart Childderley, all attracted sponsorship to buy and maintain their boats.

The argument that money can buy medals is confounded by the performance of the New Zealand team, which picked up two silvers and a bronze despite an austerity programme for these Games.

Carr describes New Zealand's consistent performance over the years as an enigma within the big picture. Yet perhaps there are more lessons to be learned from this small country than by comparing the British programme with that of the US, or even Spain.

Limited money has not stopped Britain from producing a long line of world and European champions over the

Marginal foul by Bevan deprives Britain of three men in javelin final

Backley wavers from golden path

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT
IN BARCELONA



Successful aim: Backley unleashes his throw of 80.76 metres yesterday

Evasion tactics stymie Reid

ROBIN REID of Britain, hesitated and lost his light-middleweight boxing semi-final yesterday (Craig Lord writes). Reid was forced to settle for a bronze medal when the decision went to Orhan Delibas, a Dutchman who was born in Turkey, eight points to three.

As the last survivor among ten British boxers, Reid took to five the number of successive Olympics at which the last remaining British fighters have been beaten in the semi-finals. Alan Minster won silver in a controversial decision in 1972, while Chris Finnegan was middleweight champion in 1968.

Irish boxers Wayne McCullough, a bantamweight, and Michael Carruth, a welterweight, fared better than Reid. Both are coached by a Cuban and both will face Cubans in their quest for gold this morning.

Reid, who boxes for Warrington Cambrian and signs autographs as "The Grim Reaper", said he was happy to win the bronze medal. But he conceded that hesitancy in the first two rounds, rather than the skill of his opponent, had lost him the chance to fight for the title.

While the low scores of the first two three-minute rounds — 2-1 to Delibas and 2-2 — reflected Reid's verdict and the successful but frustrating avoidance tactics of Delibas, Reid, who works in a betting office, was at odds with the judges in the last round. The fifth 90-second Liverpudian believed that it had been his best round, but he was given no points, to the Dutchman's four. The new scoring system, which requires three judges to register a hit simultaneously for it to count as a point, has been universally criticised by the boxing fraternity.

Aidy, describing his fifth round as "a very slippery customer", who spent most of the nine minutes of tentative action backing away from insurance advances, Reid said much of the bout had been a stalemate.

Delibas meets Juan Lemos, of Cuba, for the gold medal.

Ian Irwin, the team manager, hoped Reid's efforts had been good enough to attract a sponsor to help him get an amateur boxing for next year's world championship and the Commonwealth Games of 1994. Reid, aged 21, had said he would turn professional after Barcelona, but yesterday he said he would "have a long hard think about it".

Irish boxers spent much of yesterday thinking long and hard about today's finals. McCullough, aged 22, who gave up his job to train for the Olympics, will fight Joe Casamayor, while Carruth, aged 2, a corporal with the Irish army, takes on Juan Hernandez, the world champion, who has won his last 14 bouts.

The Irishmen should have an insight into Cuban tactics. They are coached by Nicholas Cruz, a professor of the Havana Institute of Sports Culture.

Sailors can heed New Zealand attitude

IS IT enough merely to compete in the Olympics? It is a question British yachtsmen and coaching staff must all confront after the Barcelona Games.

The euphoria surrounding the bronze medal won by Lawrie Smith and his crew in the Soling keelboat class could not mask the disappointing performance of the British squad billed as the best prepared team the nation had produced.

So what went wrong? "We need more money," Rod Carr, the chief coach of Britain, said. "It costs around £1 million a medal," he added as he pointed to the vast sums spent by the teams from Spain, the United States and France.

But though sailors have had to buy their own equipment, the top people in the British squad have not lacked for money. Way, Edgington, Smith, Brotherton and

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Carr describes New Zealand's consistent performance over the years as an enigma within the big picture. Yet perhaps there are more lessons to be learned from this small country than by comparing the British programme with that of the US, or even Spain.

Limited money has not stopped Britain from producing a long line of world and European champions over the

years. The fact that these champions, with few exceptions, have failed consistently to turn in medal-winning performances at the Olympics suggests that the real problems lie within our coaching system.

Both here, Pusan four years ago and at Long Beach in 1984, too, many crews lost sight of the real objective. Most campaigns were aimed at winning selection rather than a medal and, when it came to the Games, these programmes had already peaked.

What we lack is the New Zealanders' natural thirst for success — and it will take more than money to instill it in the British squad heading for Savannah in four years.

BARRY PICKTHALL

All times BST
Today
0800: Canoeing (sprint), men's 1,000m K1, C1, K2, C2, K4, FINAL; women's 500m K4, FINAL
0900: Water polo classification round.
1000: Badminton: men's doubles, FINAL
1000: Badminton: men's play-off for SH4/SH5, FINAL
1000: Badminton: men's play-off for SH6/SW6, FINAL
1000: Tennis: women's doubles, FINAL
1200: Handball: women's FINAL
1200: Handball: men's play-off for SH4/SH5, FINAL
1200: Handball: men's play-off for SH6/SW6, FINAL
1400: Gymnastics: men's parallel bars, FINAL
1600: Gymnastics: rhythmic, FINAL
1600: Handball: men's FINAL
1600: Water polo classification round, men's semi-finals
1700: Water polo: men's play-off for 3rd/4th, FINAL
1730: Athletics: women's high jump, FINAL
1730: Athletics: men's javelin, FINAL
1800: Athletics: women's 4x100m relay, FINAL
1820: Athletics: men's 4x100m relay, FINAL
1830: Athletics: women's 1,500m, FINAL
1845: Handball: men's FINAL
1900: Equestrian: individual show jumping, FINAL
1915: Athletics: men's 5,000m, FINAL
2012: Athletics: women's 5,000m, FINAL
2100: Basketball: FINAL
Television: 07.00-21.00 (BBC1); 21.20-08.00 (BBC2); 22.45-09.00 (ITV); 09.00-10.00 (Channel 4); 10.00-11.00 (Sky 1); 11.00-12.00 (Sky 2); 12.00-13.00 (Sky 3); 13.00-14.00 (Sky 4); 14.00-15.00 (Sky 5); 15.00-16.00 (Sky 6); 16.00-17.00 (Sky 7); 17.00-18.00 (Sky 8); 18.00-19.00 (Sky 9); 19.00-20.00 (Sky 10); 20.00-21.00 (Sky 11); 21.00-22.00 (Sky 12); 22.00-23.00 (Sky 13); 23.00-24.00 (Sky 14); 24.00-01.00 (Sky 15); 01.00-02.00 (Sky 16); 02.00-03.00 (Sky 17); 03.00-04.00 (Sky 18); 04.00-05.00 (Sky 19); 05.00-06.00 (Sky 20); 06.00-07.00 (Sky 21); 07.00-08.00 (Sky 22); 08.00-09.00 (Sky 23); 09.00-10.00 (Sky 24); 10.00-11.00 (Sky 25); 11.00-12.00 (Sky 26); 12.00-13.00 (Sky 27); 13.00-14.00 (Sky 28); 14.00-15.00 (Sky 29); 15.00-16.00 (Sky 30); 16.00-17.00 (Sky 31); 17.00-18.00 (Sky 32); 18.00-19.00 (Sky 33); 19.00-20.00 (Sky 34); 20.00-21.00 (Sky 35); 21.00-22.00 (Sky 36); 22.00-23.00 (Sky 37); 23.00-24.00 (Sky 38); 24.00-01.00 (Sky 39); 01.00-02.00 (Sky 40); 02.00-03.00 (Sky 41); 03.00-04.00 (Sky 42); 04.00-05.00 (Sky 43); 05.00-06.00 (Sky 44); 06.00-07.00 (Sky 45); 07.00-08.00 (Sky 46); 08.00-09.00 (Sky 47); 09.00-10.00 (Sky 48); 10.00-11.00 (Sky 49); 11.00-12.00 (Sky 50);

Women regain Britain's hockey pride by beating South Korea to win bronze medal

Sixsmith strikes twice to seal victory

Great Britain.....4
South Korea.....3

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN
IN TERRASSA

BRITISH hockey prestige was restored at Terrassa yesterday when the women seized the bronze medal in the Olympic tournament after a hard-fought victory over South Korea in extra time.

It was just reward for their effort and a wonderful team spirit that seemed to have been carried over from Seoul. There, four years ago, the bronze medal eluded Britain, but yesterday, Dennis Hay, the Britain coach, from Scotland, left the field a happy man.

Victory was secured after a splendid fightback by Britain, who levelled the score twice and then went ahead 3-2 in normal time. They lost their advantage but eventually regained it in the extra period.

Britain's attacks were again led by Jane Sixsmith, with Wendy Fraser and Mary Nevill offering valuable support. Alison Ramsay and Kay Johnson worked tirelessly in defence and broke up a number of Korean attacks.

The first blow was struck by Korea in the fourth minute. Kyung-Hie Lee, the outside right, delivered the ball to the far post and Young-Mi Ro scored.

Three minutes later, Sixsmith took advantage of an appalling lapse in the Korean defence and went on to drive the ball into goal, with two Koreans trying unavailingly to retrieve it.

After squandering two short corners, the Koreans restored their lead in the twelfth minute.

Eun-jung Chang made contact inside the circle with a free hit, taken by Young-Mi Ro, and the ball landed on target.

In the 26th minute,

Sixsmith set up a chance for Wendy Fraser, whose shot was easily saved, and by half-time the Koreans had squandered another short corner.

A renewal of endeavour by Britain put the Korean defence in a panic and Britain scored two goals in five minutes. Johnson levelled the score from a penalty stroke and Susan Fraser converted a short corner.

But it was not long before the Koreans drew level again, with Gae-Sook Lee converting a short corner.

As time began to run out, Sixsmith had a great chance of putting Britain ahead again with a reverse flick that the goalkeeper saved. Fortunes changed rapidly, with first one side and then the other gaining the upper hand but, towards the end of normal time, the Koreans had a slight edge.

Extra time began with the Koreans failing to capitalise on a short corner; then Britain wrested the initiative and kept pushing forward, eventually to force a short corner that Sixsmith converted.

How desperately the Koreans struggled to save the match but three short corners in their favour proved unavailing and Britain emerged triumphant.

The Koreans had been beaten 3-1 by Britain in the pool match and they recovered sufficiently well to defeat Holland. They took the field sight favourites yesterday but did not reckon with Britain's fighting qualities.

Four years ago in Seoul, they reached the final but were defeated 2-0 by Australia, who could do no more this time than finish fifth.

GREAT BRITAIN: H Morgan (Abg), S Fraser (Abg), J Aykroyd (Abg), M Johnson (Abg), A Ramsay (Abg), K McNeilly (Abg), J Stich (Abg), W Fraser (Abg).

SOUTH KOREA: Jee-Sook Youn, Gun-Soo Kim, Gae-Sook Lee, Kyung-Hie Lee, Young-Mi Ro, Gyeong-Jeong Chang-Sook Naem, Kyung-Hie Lee, Gae-Sook Lim, Young-Mi Ro, Un-Hee Kim, Hyun-Jin Park, Hee-Jeong Kim, Eun-jung Chang, Chang-Sook Naem, Kyung-Hie Lee, Gae-Sook Lim, Young-Mi Ro, Un-Hee Kim, Hyun-Jin Park, Hee-Jeong Kim, M Hernandez (Span).



Dangerous duo: Boris Becker and Michael Stich, of Germany, compare gold medals after beating Wayne Ferreira and Piet Norval, of South Africa, 7-6, 4-6, 7-6, 6-3, in the Olympic tennis doubles final

Graf deposed as Capriati nets big fish

JENNIFER Capriati, of the United States, became the youngest Olympic tennis gold medal winner when she recovered from a set down yesterday to defeat Steffi Graf, the defending champion, for the first time.

Capriati, aged 16, showed extraordinary composure in only her twelfth clay-court tournament to claim the biggest title of her career, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Four years ago in Seoul, they reached the final but were defeated 2-0 by Australia, who could do no more this time than finish fifth.

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She appeared to have wasted her best chance of success in the first set when she squandered nine break points in the fifth game. But her timing and boldness eventually wore down Graf, who had never previously lost an Olympic singles match. Besides taking gold in Seoul, the German won the demonstration event in Los Angeles.

The marathon fifth game

contained 13 deuces. Capriati appeared to lose it through over-ambition.

Confidence is no longer Graf's automatic companion but, as she proved against Monica Seles in the Wimbledon final, she is usually extremely tenacious once ahead.

This time, though, Capriati was too assured and her returns too accurate.

Serving for the match at 5-

3, victory finally arrived when Graf put a forehand into the net, and even the German supporters in the stadium realised they had witnessed the arrival of a maturing new force in women's tennis.

Boris Becker and Michael Stich, of Germany, beat Wayne Ferreira and Piet Norval of South Africa, 7-6, 4-6, 7-6, 6-3 in the men's doubles final.

"I expect it to be a very

Athletes may find pasta makes them go faster

SO NOW we know how Italy has done so well in the Olympics. Not drugs, but diet. "A plate of pasta would be as good for a weightlifter or runner as Clenbuterol," one sports nutrition expert said.

Yesterday, a delegation of sports nutritionists met the IOC medical commission to ask for more research into the role of diet and drugs in improving performances. "No proper research has been done to show that drugs that athletes take actually do improve performance," Clyde Williams, professor of sports science at Loughborough University, said.

"It is a closed culture and athletes take these pills because they see others doing it and think it will improve their training. They don't realise there is an alternative," Williams added that eating immediately after training was important. So that's why Mike Gatting has got so many runs this time — according to the Middlesex cook, he always has his second breakfast straight after his morning net.

GOT THEM LICKED

THE relay teams are not the only British quartets eagerly hoping for a gold. The four-

strong British team competing at Barcelona's Olympic Games are attempting to push Britain to the fore of Olympic philately (stamp collecting, for the uninitiated), a competitive hobby dominated by the Germans.

More than 300 British philatelists belong to the Society of Olympic collectors. It is an obsessional an activity as any sport. Bob Wilcock confesses to scouring litter bins to trace envelopes carrying any postmarks bearing Olympic symbols.

His team is foraging eager-

ly in Barcelona among a mass of material from the plethora of organisations spread through the Olympic complex. "We get everywhere trying to find as much material as we can," Wilcock said. "We don't have much time for the athletes."

Matrimonial miss

BY BECOMING the first Greek woman to win an athletic gold medal, Paraskevi Papaloufou had more reason than most to celebrate, but she had to do so, after winning the 100 metres hurdles, without her husband, the former Olympic weightlifter, Dimitris Zatsas.

Papaloufou couldn't find him as she scanned the stadium on her lap of honour but all ended happily when they were re-united for a quiet walk along the beach at midnight.

Walk this way

VOLLEYBALL obviously breeds a philosophic kind of coach. "There was a loss of concentration and a loss of determination. Why, I don't know. The human being is the greatest mystery of the universe," Julio Velasco, the Italian coach, reflected after their quarter-final defeat by Holland on Wednesday.

ARMED with local knowledge, England have a fine chance of medals in the Woolwich world championships, with a record entry of 28 countries, which start at Beach House Park, Worthing, today.

All five players have won national titles there, the most recent being Tony Alcock in the EBA singles and John Bell in the pairs and triples last year.

After 25 years as an automatic choice in the singles, David Bryant, the champion, has given way to Alcock, the man he has taught so much.

Alcock's main challengers are Peter Belliss, of New Zealand, the 1984 champion, Rob Parrella, of Australia, the Commonwealth Games champion, Bill Moseley, of South Africa, and Mark McMahon, of Hong Kong.

Alcock is joined in the pairs by John Ottaway, with Bell, Roy Cutts and Andy Thomson completing the team in the triples and fours.

The first week is devoted to the pairs and triples; the second to the singles and fours, each in two sections, with the winners meeting for the gold medals.

BOWLS

Rub of the green favours England

BY GORDON ALLAN

Much will depend on compatibility and whether the reconditioned greens are to the players' liking.

South Africa return to international competition for the first time since the 1976 championships, when they won everything in Johannesburg. Moseley and Kevin Campbell remain from that side. Moseley will also be remembered for his two victories in the Masters singles at Worthing in the early 1980s.

Others likely to go far are Richard Corsie, of Scotland, Bill Thomas, of Wales, and Frank Souza, of the United States, in the singles. Belliss and Rowan Brassey, the holders, and Ronnie Jones and Bill Boettger, of Canada, in the pairs; and George Souza, of Hong Kong, Maurice Sykes, of New Zealand, and Cecil Bransky, of Israel, in the triples and fours.

The first week is devoted to the pairs and triples; the second to the singles and fours, each in two sections, with the winners meeting for the gold medals.

WEEKEND FIXTURES

Today

CRICKET
Fifth Cornhill Test match

11-15, 90 overs minimum

THE OVAL: England v Pakistan

11-15, 90 overs minimum

FIELDSEND: Lancashire v Northamptonshire

11-15, 90 overs minimum

TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Worcestershire

11-15, 90 overs minimum

LORD'S: Middlesex v Gloucestershire

11-15, 90 overs minimum

NOTTINGHAM: Nottinghamshire v Yorkshire

11-15, 90 overs minimum

TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Warwickshire

11-15, 90 overs minimum

EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Durham

11-15, 90 overs minimum

FOOTBALL

Fifth Cornhill Test match

11-15, 90 overs minimum

THE OVAL: England v Pakistan

11-15, 90 overs minimum

SUNDAY League

11-15, 90 overs minimum

ARLIE: Arle v Dundee

Celtic v Motherwell

11-15, 90 overs minimum

BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Leicestershire

11-15, 90 overs minimum

OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Derbyshire

11-15, 90 overs minimum

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool v West Ham

11-15, 90 overs minimum

ST MIRREN: Dundee v Dunbarion

11-15, 90 overs minimum

SECOND DIVISION

Alloa v Birkirkara

Arbroath v Bracknell

Clyde v Alton

Ed Fife v Stanhousemuir

Forfar v Queen of South

Greenock v Parkhead

Hamilton v Partick

International tournament

Cyberbank v Ay

Dundee v Hamilton

East Fife v Dunbarion

String v Cowdenbeath

Third division

Alloa v Birkirkara

Arbroath v Bracknell

Clyde v Alton

Ed Fife v Stanhousemuir

Forfar v Queen of South

Greenock v Parkhead

Hamilton v Partick

International tournament

(at Newcastle)

Sporting Lisbon v Real Sociedad

11-15, 90 overs minimum

EXHIBITION TOURNAMENT (at Newcastle)

Spurs v Lyon Red Star

11-15, 90 overs minimum

INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT (at Birmingham)

Pre-season matches

Bristol City v Chester

Brighouse Rovers v Bradford

CRICKET

Glamorgan take heart from Dale's defiance

By RICHARD STREETON

TRENT BRIDGE: (first day of three; Glamorgan won toss; Nottinghamshire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 317 runs behind Glamorgan)

THIS match clears one of the two games Nottinghamshire have in hand over Essex, who stand 32 points ahead of them at the top of the championship table, and they cannot afford to lose it. A dry, worn-looking pitch, devoid of grass, was provided for Glamorgan, the bottom side, yesterday but a workmanlike hundred by Adrian Dale enabled them to hold their own.

Dale was the only Glamorgan batsmen who managed to build an innings after getting a sight of the ball on a gloomy, overcast day.

Nottinghamshire included Afford, a second spinner, in preference to Pennett, a seamer, and on Monday the selection could be justified. Dale, however, saw to it that, initially, the play was foiled. For a long time he was anonymous and efficient but he cut loose in the closing stages against the slow bowlers.

When Dale off-drove Hemmings in the 94th over for his thirteenth four he had faced 187 balls and had contributed 103 of the 158 runs added while he was at the wicket. He dominated an eighth-wicket partnership with Watkin, whose share of a stand of 57 was two singles.

Dale went on to ensure that Glamorgan gained maximum bonus points and had reached a career-best 150 not out when Glamorgan declared 25 minutes before the close. Dale hit 21 fours, faced 233 balls and batted just under four hours.

Given the conditions, it was unexpected that for long per-

ods the best Nottinghamshire bowler was Kevin Evans. Almost unnoticed, he has been a consistent and reliable performer with the ball this season. He must be credited with helping to cover the deficiencies of the Nottinghamshire attack.

Lewis has been absent through representative calls; Cairns took time to settle; Cooper has been unavailable with back trouble; Hemmings, too, has had a lengthy injury. Afford has gone through one of those crises of confidence which periodically seem to afflict left-arm spinners.

On this occasion Cairns bowled Morris early on before Evans twice broke partnerships which were threatening to develop. He finished with three for 48 from 22 overs.

Afford, who has not played since mid-July, bowled more steadily than his figures suggest.

Jones and the left-handed Hemp added 57 for the second wicket before James aimed a loose square cut and was caught behind. Maynard, similarly, contributed to his own downfall when he made room to drive Afford in his second over and lifted a catch into the covers.

Hemp survived two chances to backward square leg against Evans but reached a hard-earned 51 before he fell to a bat-and-pad catch by Robinson, one of three good, close catches the Nottinghamshire captain held.

Cotter stayed 23 overs with Dale before Evans had him caught off a glove by French down the leg side. Croft and Metson came and went before Watkin began his 14 overs of defiance. Watkin was finally held at silly point before Foster stayed until the declaration.

Alec Bedser was at the Test match yesterday. So, therefore, was Eric. When they joined Surrey in the late 1930s bowlers coming to the Oval for a trial, with pretensions to bowl at medium pace, were taken to the nets, handed a new ball and asked to show whether or not they could swing it. Those unable to do so were thanked for their attendance and went back onto the farm.

The Pakistanis are able to do things with the ball, at whatever pace, which are beyond virtually every English bowler. Without such ingenuity in Pakistan they would long ago have given up the ghost. When England were batting on Thursday they were never quite sure



Not expensive: Stewart fumbled this chance to stump Miandad on 49 but he fell to Lewis ten runs later

Pakistan are the new masters of swing

JOHN WOOD COOK AT THE STUMP

ALEC BEDSER AT THE NETS

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: FIRST INNINGS

KENT: FIRST INNINGS

SUSSEX: FIRST INNINGS

MIDDLESEX: FIRST INNINGS

YORKSHIRE: FIRST INNINGS

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: FIRST INNINGS

WORCESTERSHIRE: FIRST INNINGS

LANCASHIRE: FIRST INNINGS

DERBYSHIRE: FIRST INNINGS

SOMERSET: FIRST INNINGS

SUSSEX: SECOND INNINGS

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THE TIMES SPORT

SATURDAY AUGUST 8 1992

Race to find the fashionable new drug in sport was started last year

Canadians seek clenbuterol cheats

CANADA, whose sporting image was tarnished by the Ben Johnson scandal at Seoul four years ago, have already started an investigation into clenbuterol, sports' new fashion drug. Canadian, German and British experts yesterday confirmed that Canadian testers first drew attention to the drug last year after noting that its anabolic muscle-building properties had made it popular with cheats.

"This drug was being used by a large number of athletes in a large number of sports," Dr Andrew Pipe, chief medical officer of the Canadian Olympic team, said. "It's my personal view that people are not taking it for its stimulant properties despite claims to the contrary. They are taking it to increase their lean muscle mass," he said.

At least five leading athletes have tested positive for clenbuterol, a stimulant and anabolic agent licensed in some countries to treat asthma, at or away from the Games in Barcelona in the last month.

Karin Krabbe, the women's double world sprint champion, and her German club mate, Grit Breuer, neither of whom is at the Olympics, tested positive for clenbuterol in analysis of urine samples from out-of-competition random tests in Germany. They face a four-year ban from athletics if second samples confirm the findings.

Jud Logan, the hammer thrower, on Thursday became the first United States athlete to be expelled from an Olympics since 1976 after he tested positive following his fourth place finish in the final. Logan, 33, has said he used clenbuterol as a "safe alternative to steroids" but stopped taking it in April.

Two British weightlifters, Andrew Saxon and Andrew Davies, were sent home from Barcelona last week after testing positive for the drug before the Games.

Canada stepped up its drugs testing programme for athletes after Johnson's disgrace in Seoul, where he was stripped of his 100 metres gold medal for using the banned anabolic steroid, stanazolol. Krabbe has confirmed she began taking clenbuterol in April but said she had been told that it was not on doping lists.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) confirmed last week that the drug was banned not only as a stimulant but also as an anabolic agent because its pharmacological properties and chemi-



Charles Brenner, page 3
Simon Barnes, page 14
David Miller, page 28
Britain's bronze, page 29
Results, page 29

cal structure make it related to anabolic steroids. Pipe said that the drug was easily detectable. "Clenbuterol is excreted almost unchanged in urine."

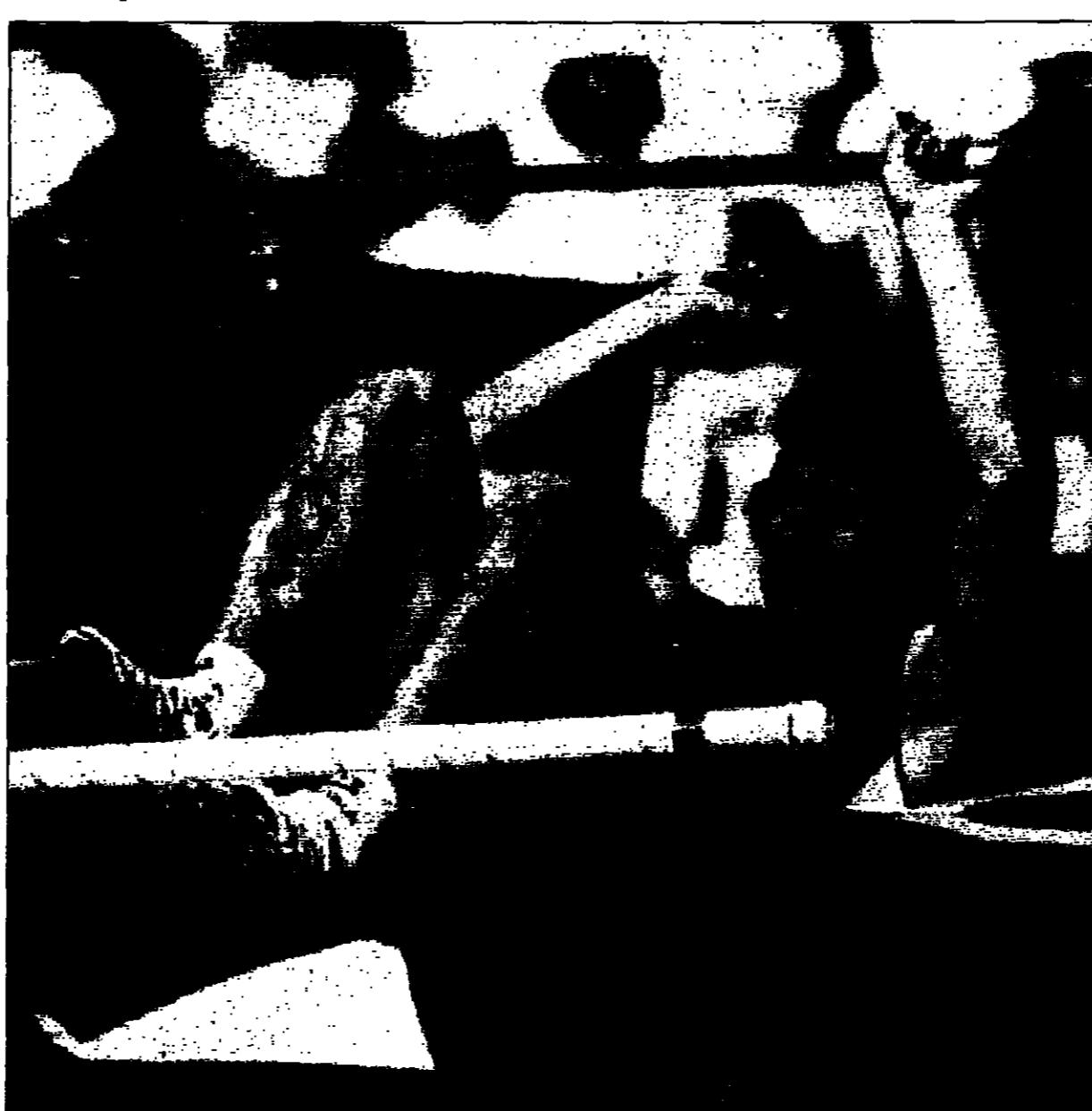
Most straight stimulants are banned only in competition by the IOC and national and international sports federations, while anabolic steroids are banned inside and outside competition.

Some sports officials have questioned whether athletes found to have taken clenbuterol out of competition before the medical commission could legitimately be suspended from sport because the drug had not been banned by name. But Arne Ljungqvist, the medical commissioner, said clenbuterol was covered by the catch-all term "and related compounds" which follows names of explicitly banned substances on doping lists.

"If we started listing every substance then the general dance would lose its meaning," Ljungqvist, who also chairs the International Amateur Athletic Federation's commission, said.

He said that athletes and trainers may have been careless in their reading of anti-doping rules and felt "wrongly" that clenbuterol was permitted out of competition. But he said lack of knowledge was no excuse. "It's your responsibility to know what you take."

John Major visited the Olympic sites yesterday on a brief trip to the Games. He was met at Barcelona airport by Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the IOC, went to watch the volleyball, had a lunch with local officials and then hosted a reception for the British team in the evening. This was attended by several members of the IOC, including Anton Geesink of Holland, and Prince Alexandre Merode, of Belgium. Major was last night at the stadium to watch the women's 10,000m.



Favourite grounded: Bubka falls on the mat after missing his second pole vault attempt yesterday

Bubka aborts Barcelona take-off

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN BARCELONA

ALL week, favourites for Olympic gold medals have been crashing from a great height, but none has fallen as far as Sergey Bubka did yesterday. Bubka left the stadium without making a clearance in the pole vault, a departure even more ignominious than Michael Johnson's and Colin Jackson's and a departure which fractured Nike's multi-million dollar international advertising campaign built around Bubka. Johnson, the Algerian runner, Noureddine Morceli, and the American basketball player, Michael Jordan.

Bubka, the Ukrainian holder of the world record, world champion and Olympic champion, has shown himself a master under pressure in the past but, on this occasion, the nerves of steel deserted the king of the fibre glass pole.

The gold medal went to Maxim Tarassov, of the Unified Team, with 5.80 metres, followed by Igor Trandenkov, also of the United Team and on 5.80, Javier Garcia Chico, of Spain, on 5.75, with Bubka listed as "no result".

Bubka's world record is 6.11 metres; Istvan Bagyula, the Hungarian who finished runner-up to him in the world championships last year, had seen Bubka take the title from him with his last vault. He needed to clear 5.95 and did.

"He had not looked good at 5.90 or 5.95," Bagyula said then. "But it means nothing when you are talking about Bubka." This time it did.

According to Nike's advertising Spanish air traffic controller had been notified about Bubka. Now he joins the company's other big athletics name, Michael Johnson, in defeat.

Aged 28, Bubka's career earnings are in the region of \$2 million. After winning the world championship for the third time last year, he joined the Berlin team, Olympischer Sport. His contract gave him

£70,000 a year, an apartment and free plane tickets to fly his family between Germany and their home in the Ukraine.

Though he uses Berlin as his base for competing in Europe during the season, he says he is committed to the Ukraine. When he appeared at a press conference here before the Olympics began, he wore a shirt coloured Ukrainian yellow, white and blue.

It was as a small boy in Donegal that he experimented with pole vaulting, improvising with his mother's clothes prop and washing line. Curiosity became addiction and Bubka's attention to detail and training programme have set new standards in training. The reward for his labours has been 30 world records, 16 indoors and 14 outdoors.

Relay men nearly caught napping

FROM DAVID POWELL

THE British men's sprint relay team, all except Linford Christie, overslept yesterday morning but there was no question of them being caught napping in the afternoon. They eased their way into the 4 x 100 metres final today but only after a morning that Frank Dick, their coach, described as "the worst of my life".

Dick was perhaps overstating his difficulties but, having told the team to be ready to catch the 7.15am bus to the track for the quarter-finals, he was alarmed to find Jason John, Tony Jarrett and Marcus Adam still in bed. Moving as fast as they do on the track,

they were out of bed and on the next bus half an hour later.

Linford Christie had equalled the British 200 metres record here and Dick said: "He came back in under certain conditions.

We agreed that he did not need to run in the first round.

We have a 20.09sec sprinter in the squad and it would have been unwise not to have him in the relay."

John Regis was brought into the team for the semi-final, replacing John. Regis had been saying all season that he did not want to be considered for the relay squad, but Dick persuaded him to change his mind. His inclusion became more urgent after the lead-off man, Jason Liv-

ington, had been sent home in disgrace for failing a drugs test. Regis had equalled the British 200 metres record here and Dick said: "He came back in under certain conditions.

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